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BRANGELINA WEDDING 'SOON'

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PAGE 30

CALGARY metro®

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

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SETTLING THE BET

Mayor Naheed Nenshi wears a Toronto Argonauts jersey as Ald. Shane Keating wears a Calgary Stampeders jersey before a city council budget meeting on Tuesday. Nenshi had to wear the jersey after losing a bet when the Calgary Stampeders lost the Grey Cup to the Toronto Argonauts; Keating wore the Stamps jersey of his own volition.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Discount transit fares expanded

A year at a time. Council stops short of making further transit fare adjustments for 2014

Calgary will raise the threshold for low-income transit passes next year, giving an estimated 10,000 more people access to discounted fares.

To pay for that, however, the city's tax rate will rise and seniors' steeply discounted transit fares will nearly double.

Ald. Brian Pincott, who put forward the plan on Tuesday during council's 2013 budget deliberations, thinks it's a fair trade-off.

"I think it's wrong that we have people living in poverty who have to pay full fare," he said.

A majority of councillors agreed, voting in favour of raising the threshold for discounted fares to 87.5 per cent of the low-income cutoff (LICO), a measure calculated by Statistics Canada.

Starting in 2013, anyone who earns 87.5 per cent or less of the LICO cutoff is eligible for the discounted fare.

The threshold currently stands at 75 per cent of LICO. Combined with an increase in the price for annual seniors' transit passes, the move is expected to cost the city an extra $1.9 million in 2013 and bumps the tax-rate hike for next year to 5.5 per cent from 5.3 per cent.

Ald. Peter Demong opposed the move, saying it puts too much burden on seniors.

But Ald. Jim Stevenson said the decision evens out a major disparity in the city's transit discounts for different groups.

"The system that we have right now is not fair," he said. "For the higher-income seniors to get such a huge benefit compared to a single mother on AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) with two kids — something just isn't right about that."

Bonnie Pacaud of the group Fair Fares was "very pleased" with the move, noting the roughly $50 in monthly transit savings will make a "huge difference" for people on low income. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Transit passes

- Regular monthly transit passes currently cost $94 while low-income passes cost $40.
- Seniors' transit passes cost $55 per year. That will jump to $95 in 2013.
- Transit passes for low-income seniors will continue to cost $15 a year in 2013.

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New attractions

Calgary Zoo breaks attendance record

The Calgary Zoo is reporting record attendance levels, thanks largely to some new feathered friends.

The opening of Penguin Plunge, two new tiger cubs and exceptional summer weather helped attract more than 1.33 million visitors to the zoo so far this year.

The zoo president expects that number to reach 1.4 million by the end of 2012.

"The success of the zoo is helping us invest more in conservation research, education programs and improving animal welfare," said zoo president Clément Lanthier.

The old attendance record was from 1988, when two panda bears and the 1988 Olympics attracted large numbers of visitors to the zoo.

RYAN KESSLER/FOR METRO

Prohibited area

Pit-bull bite prompts warning to dog owners

Calgary is reminding dog owners to keep their pets out of prohibited areas after a pit bull bit a young girl's face at a tobogganing hill.

The incident happened Sunday in an area connected to a soccer field and off limit to dogs, according to Animal and Bylaw Services.

The pit bull's owner is charged with allowing an animal bite causing serious injury and having an animal in a prohibited area, and will have a mandatory court appearance.

Animal and Bylaw Services did not deem the dog vicious.

The owner's penalty under a city bylaw could still reach as high as $10,000. METRO

Tsuu T'ina band council members kept their negotiating cards concerning Calgary's ring road close to the chest Tuesday after a new chief was elected on the reserve southwest of the city. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

New chief pushed for ring road 'silent toll'

Tsuu T'ina Nation. Roy Whitney previously served as chief of First Nations on Calgary's southwest border from 1984 to 2001

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Tsuu T'ina Nation voters have elected a former chief of 17 years, raising prospects again of a toll being established as part of a deal to construct the southwest leg of Calgary's ring road.

Roy Whitney will replace the incumbent, five-term leader Sandford Big Plume, after winning Monday's nation leadership ballot, the results of which were revealed publicly Tuesday.

During his previous stint as Tsuu T'ina chief, Whitney openly advocated for the establishment of a "silent toll" on the long-proposed portion of the ring road that would run through nation land.

But the re-appointed leader declined to discuss his position on the matter in any detail Tuesday out of respect for voters and a funeral being held for a Tsuu T'ina resident.

"I'd like to respect the (deceased's) family — I hope you give me a few days to gather my thoughts and my bearings," Whitney said.

A Tsuu T'ina spokesperson said a news conference has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday.

In September, outgoing chief Big Plume reported productive ring-road talks with Transportation Minister Ric McIver, but both parties offered little indication that a deal was closer.

Reached Tuesday, McIver said he expects to begin negotiations with Whitney in the near future.

"I guess it remains to be seen if it will be a difficulty," McIver said of the change in leadership with negotiations ongoing.

Staying true to form, McIver refrained from discussing whether any progress has been made on the thoroughfare, which has been debated for decades.

A silent toll would involve a system where the number of vehicles travelling on the road is tracked and the city or province then pays a per-vehicle fee to the First Nation.

Amy Lonsberry with the Lakeview Community Association was quick to point out that Tsuu T'ina has had a great deal of development since Whitney was last in power, potentially reducing some of the need to generate ongoing revenue from the ring road leg. "Alberta has changed and the nation has changed," she said.

Taxpayers

Derek Fildebrandt, Alberta director of the Canadian Taxpayers' Federation, offered some caution to the province should Tsuu T'ina again propose a "silent toll" on the southwest ring road leg.

- "We have to ensure that we can never be held hostage for having a highway through their land," he said.
- "(Also) that we are not going to sacrifice long-term financial sustainability in the interest of getting this done cheap upfront."

Death of soldier was preventable, says reservist

A Calgary reservist charged with manslaughter in a training accident in Afghanistan admitted Tuesday he could have prevented the death of a fellow soldier.

Under cross-examination at his court martial, Maj. Darryl Watts conceded that if he had ordered his soldiers into nearby armoured vehicles during the firing of an anti-personnel mine, it is likely Cpl. Josh Baker would still be alive.

"Would you say if the men were inside they would have been uninjured and Cpl. Baker would not have died?" asked prosecutor Maj. Dylan Kerr.

"Correct," replied Watts.

Watts maintained he was not in charge of the firing-range safety that day in February 2010. But as platoon commander, he said, if he had any concerns about the firing exercise, he had the authority to call it off.

"If I had decided it needed to be done, it would have been done," said Watts.

"As a platoon commander, the order would have been mine — yes."

But with the soldiers dressed in full combat gear, Watts said he was convinced neither he nor his men were in any danger.

"I did not think that would be a risk to us ... a risk to anyone. At no point did anyone suggest anything was unsafe or wrong," he said.

Watts, 44, faces six charges, including manslaughter, unlawfully causing bodily harm, breach of duty and negligent performance of duty.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The incident

- Baker, 24, died when the C-19 Claymore anti-personnel mine, packed with 700 steel balls, raked the Canadian Forces platoon on a range four kilometres north of Kandahar.
- He was struck four times and one of the steel balls penetrated his chest. Four other soldiers were seriously injured.
- Watts confirmed that none of the ball bearings penetrated the armoured vehicles at the firing range.

Student lands in hot water for wearing Riders jersey

Debate. Parents say misunderstanding indicative of freedom-of-expression issue in today's schools

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Calgary's Catholic School District has apologized to one of its students and her parents after she was temporarily withheld from a pre-Grey Cup pep rally for wearing a Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey.

Alesandra Behr, 13, said the vice-principal at her school in the city's northwest initially informed her that she would be barred from the festivities last Friday unless she changed her clothing.

"I thought it was really stupid," Behr said, before estimating she spent 45 minutes in the principal's office before the issue was sorted out. "I don't feel like it's right, what they did.... They say stand up for what you believe in, and when they tell you that's not right, you feel like you have done something wrong."

After learning what had happened, the school's principal intervened "immediately" and Behr was allowed to participate for the entire duration of the pep rally, said Catholic School spokesperson Janet Corsten.

"It was a temporary, misguided judgment on the part of the staff member at the school," Corsten said. "It was corrected immediately by the principal.... Most importantly, all students were able to fully participate in the rally."

Behr said she did miss preparations for the event, which was attended by a local television news station, including the choreographing of a pro-Calgary Stampeders dance routine.

Behr's parents were quick to commend the school for resolving the matter and apologizing, but father Jason maintains the misunderstanding should never have occurred in the first place.

"She wasn't violating the dress code or anything," he said. "Because of that, she should be allowed to express herself freely."

Alesandra, meanwhile, said she's given no thought to trading in her green-and-white Riders garb for the Stampeders' red.

Born and bred

Alesandra Behr said she was born and bred a Saskatchewan Roughriders fan by her father, Jason. He has held Calgary Stampeders season tickets for 13 years, but always dons his team's green jersey when they visit town.

- Behr's parents requested the name of her school and vice-principal be withheld as they wanted to avoid personal attacks.

Alesandra Behr is seen wearing her Saskatchewan Roughriders jersey with pride Monday. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Council decision could impact cops' camera plans

Calgary police Sgt. Evel Kiez is captured on a cruiser camera system intended to be equipped on every vehicle used by the service. METRO FILE

Plans to install cameras in every Calgary police cruiser and begin testing similar, body-worn devices on officers could be delayed by a city council decision, says the police chief.

Rick Hanson addressed reporters Tuesday, one day after council members voted to move $4 million out of the Calgary Police Service to offset a proposed city property tax hike.

Council's decision came after projections for 2012 suggested revenue from speeding fines could come in $4 million over original estimates.

A reserve has been established that will keep the money in policing somehow, but it's unclear if the service will be able to access it to cover $1 million for the expansion and testing of cruiser and body-worn cameras, Hanson said.

"The reality is there's a need to upgrade our technology, there's a need to look at methods of doing police work that make us more efficient and more effective," he said. "The cameras clearly are one of those.... (They have) proven to be an extremely useful tool when going to court."

Ald. Shane Keating, who sits on the police commission board and questioned Monday why representatives from the service and overseeing commission were not present for budget deliberations, said talk of using a portion of the surplus for the cameras was news to him.

"They should have talked to at least the mayor's office and said here's our scenario for what happened this year," he said. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Surplus revenue

Council's decision to move surplus revenue was addressed at a meeting of the Calgary police commission Tuesday.

- Chair Mike Shaikh said he hopes to meet with Mayor Naheed Nenshi to go over who can access the newly established police reserve and for what purposes.
- Shaikh said he confirmed that he was not needed for the budget deliberations at city hall prior to Monday's meeting.

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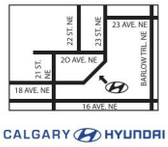

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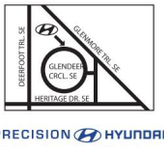

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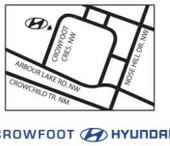

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Anti-Alberta comments hurt Grits in byelection: Redford

Liberals live on.
Premier says Liberals still have 'interesting' candidates for leadership

Anti-Alberta comments by Liberal leadership frontrunner Justin Trudeau and MP David McGuinty probably had an impact on a tight byelection race in Calgary, Premier Alison Redford said on Tuesday.

"It may have had an impact — I would expect it probably did have an impact," she said after speaking at a conference on public-private partnerships in Toronto.

"But more importantly, on a moving-forward basis, I would just suggest to anyone in politics that it's better to be constructive than divisive."

Trudeau apologized last week for comments he made in an interview in 2010, in which he blamed Canada's problems on Albertans controlling "our community and socio-democratic agenda."

McGuinty — brother of Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty — resigned his post as natural resources critic after being quoted calling Alberta MPs "shills" for the oil industry and suggesting they "go home" and run for town council if they want to be so parochial.

The comments, particularly those by Trudeau, appeared to stall Liberal momentum in Calgary Centre.

The party's hopes for an upset victory in that riding were dashed on Monday night when Conservative Joan Crockatt won by a margin of just over a thousand votes over Liberal challenger Harvey Locke, out of nearly 28,000 votes cast.

The divisive comments likely influenced voters in Alberta, who want leaders who can show that they can work with people across the country, Redford said.

Anyone seeking a national leadership role shouldn't be promoting divisions among Canadians, she added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamping the end of a season

Calgary Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn takes the contents of his locker out to his car on Tuesday afternoon as the Stamps cleared out for the season. After a slow 3-4 start to the year, the team went on a mid- to late-season tear, winning nine of their last 11 games to finish with a 12-6 record. The Stampeders were a favourite in the Grey Cup but lost 35-22 on Sunday to the Toronto Argonauts — a team that gave them problems every time they met in 2012.

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New procedure reduces recovery time for heart-surgery patients

Cardiac surgeon Dr. Andrew Maitland talks about the procedure performed on Romel Raffin, 58, a former Olympic basketball player, on Tuesday at the Foothills Hospital. Raffin underwent a minimally invasive repair on a leaky heart valve. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Cardiac patients.
Small incisions, telescopic cameras improve quality of life

RYAN KESSLER
calgary@metronews.ca

A three-time Canadian Olympian is alive thanks to a new heart surgery at the Foothills Medical Centre that doctors expect will drastically reduce recovery times for cardiac patients.

Romel Raffin realized he had an irregular heartbeat in the 1970s. But it wasn't until July 2012 that he had surgery to correct the leaky valves in his heart.

In the past, doctors would have needed to make a 10-inch incision in the former basketball star's chest. After that, they'd have to cut through his breastbone to work on Raffin's heart. His recovery would have taken months.

"I was concerned about my quality of life. If you can't do anything, that's no fun," Raffin said.

With the Alberta-first technique, Raffin's incision was half the size. The procedure was done with a small telescopic camera. After two months, Raffin felt fully healed and was biking 30 to 40 kilometres every day.

"Now I can even take a hit when I'm playing hockey," Raffin said.

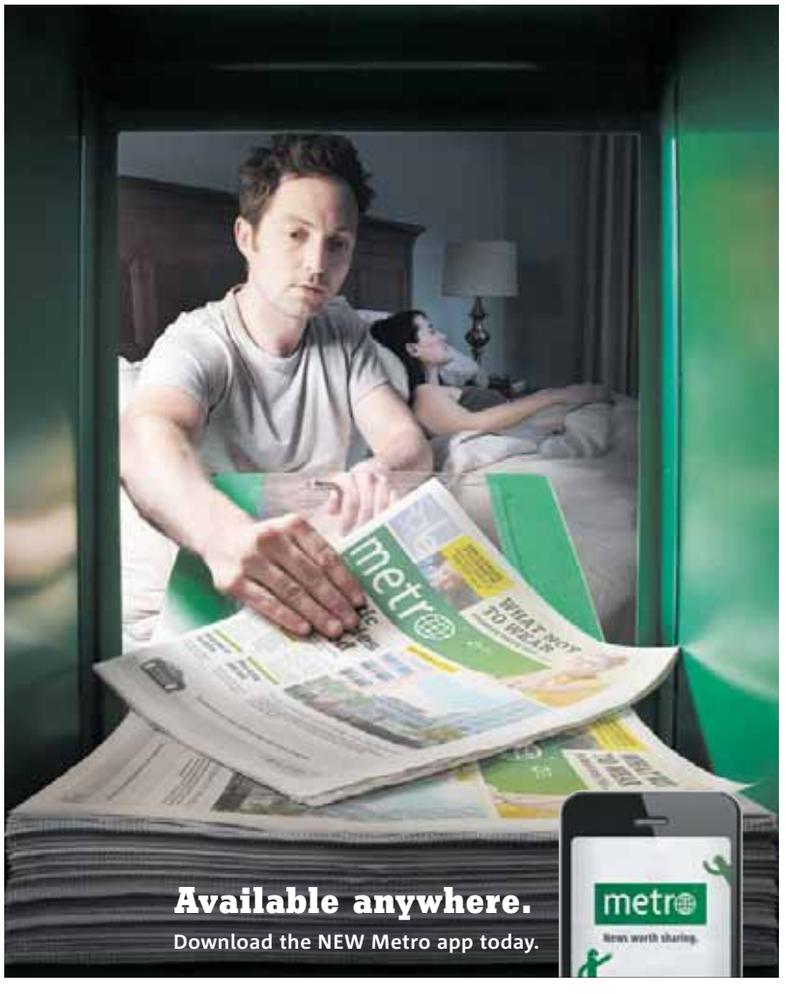
The new operation lasts a few hours. Patients can expect a three- or four-day stay in hospital — half the recovery time of the traditional method.

"This really is the next step," said Dr. Andrew Maitland, surgeon with the Libin Cardiovascular Institute. "We do it with a smaller incision, but use all the steps we've used over the years."

The minimally invasive surgery began in the early 2000s and is gaining popularity throughout Canada and the United States, Dr. Maitland said.

Procedure history

- The procedure was first done in Calgary on May 30.
- The new procedure has been performed nine times since then.
- The Libin Cardiovascular Institute hopes to do the procedure at least twice every month.
- Patients typically see a full recovery after six weeks.



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Sexiest man? Chinese paper falls for spoof

The online version of China's Communist Party newspaper has hailed a report by The Onion naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un as the "Sexiest Man Alive" — not realizing it is satire.

The People's Daily ran a 55-page photo spread on its website in a tribute to the round-faced leader, under the headline "North Korea's top leader named The Onion's Sexiest Man Alive for 2012."

Quoting The Onion's spoof report, the Chinese newspaper wrote, "With his devastatingly handsome, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman's dream come true."

"Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim made this newspaper's editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile," the People's Daily cited The Onion as saying.

In 2002, the Beijing Evening News, one of the capital city's biggest tabloids at the time, published as news the fictional account that the U.S. Congress wanted a new building and that it might leave Washington. The Onion article was a spoof of the way sports teams threaten to leave cities in order to get new stadiums. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korea dictator Kim Jong Un
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Join us on Wednesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm in Room KA229 in the Johnson-Cobbe Energy Centre.

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Bangladesh workers struggle to air complaints

Deadly factory blaze. Fleeing workers found main exit locked and no emergency exit; survivor said managers told workers to get back to work after fire alarm went off

Clothing is king in Bangladesh which exports more garments than any other in the world except China. It is responsible for four out of every five export dollars and has turned factory owners into members of parliament and leaders of sports clubs.

However, workers in those factories complain about poor working conditions and pay that can be less than $40 US a month. An agency called the Industrial Police is specifically assigned to deal with unrest in factories, and labour activists accuse government forces of killing one of their leaders. Employees are barred by law from forming trade unions, even though Bangladesh allows workers in other industries to unionize.

Workers hope that could change following the fire Saturday that killed 112 people at the Tazreen Fashions factory that made T-shirts and polo shirts for Wal-Mart and other retailers.

In an interview Tuesday, the managing director of Tazreen Fashions expressed concern — about possibly losing foreign buyers. But there was no mention in the article of concern for victims or their families. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just business?

- Wal-Mart says it decided to stop doing business with Tazreen after an audit deemed the factory "high risk" last year, but a supplier subcontracted work to the factory anyway. The retail giant said it stopped working with that supplier on Monday.
- In September, Karl-Johan Persson, chief executive of Swedish retail chain H&M, visited Bangladesh and said his 2,600-store group would increase its business relationship with the country.

Bangladeshi garments workers march through a street to mourn the death of the victims of Saturday's fire in a garment factory, on the outskirts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tuesday. KHURSHED RINKU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook arrests

Two Mumbai cops suspended

Two senior policemen have been suspended indefinitely for arresting two women over a Facebook post criticizing the shutdown of Mumbai for the funeral of a powerful politician.

The magistrate who registered the case against the women has been transferred to another district.

Police also arrested nine men who vandalized a medical clinic run by the uncle of one of the women.

One of the women had posted a Facebook comment complaining that Mumbai had come to a standstill after the death of rightwing leader Bal Thackeray. Her friend "liked" the post.

Their arrest last week was seen as a misuse of Internet laws and an attempt to curb freedom of expression. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Russia's Cossack warriors take on urban nuisances

The Kremlin. Patrol on Tuesday focused on minor public disturbances ranging from drunks to illegally parked cars

Renowned for their sword-fighting prowess and notorious for their anti-Semitism in czarist Russia, the Cossacks are taking on new foes: beggars, drunks and improperly parked cars.

With the approval of city authorities, eight Cossacks clad in traditional fur hats and uniforms patrolled a Moscow train station on Tuesday looking for signs of minor public disturbances.

The Kremlin is seeking to use the once-feared paramilitary squads in its new drive to promote conservative values and appeal to nationalists.

Cossacks patrol leader Igor Gulichev clad in a traditional fur hat and uniform. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The southern Krasnodar province — which includes Sochi, the site of the 2014 Winter Olympics — launched Cossack patrols in September to crack down on Muslim migrants from the neighbouring Caucasus. Now they've made it to the Russian capital.

Cossacks trace their history in Russia back to the 15th century. Serving in the czarist cavalry, they spearheaded imperial Russia's expansion in exchange for special privileges, including the right to govern their own villages. In the 2010 census, about 650,000 Russians declared themselves Cossacks.

Tuesday's patrol was a test run on whether the group can become an armed and salaried auxiliary police force, with the power of arrest, patrol leader Igor Gulichev said.

He compared his forces to the Texas Rangers, the elite law-enforcement body in the U.S. state. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Religious practice

Poland rules ritual slaughter violates constitution

A top court in Poland said Tuesday that the ritual slaughter of animals by religious groups, including Jews and Muslims, violates the country's constitution and animal protection laws.

The ruling puts it in conflict with European Union rules that allow the practice on the grounds of religious freedom.

In a victory for animal rights activists, the Constitutional Tribunal said regulations allowing for animals to have their throats cut and then bleed to death without previously being stunned are against Polish law. It also said that in issuing regulations that allow for such practices, the agriculture minister exceeded his powers and violated the constitution.

The ruling sets the stage for more discussion when an EU law goes into effect Jan. 1, allowing the practice and setting common standards among members. It gives animal rights supporters fuel for debate next year on whether Poland must comply with EU laws and to what extent.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The art of playing a villain

An inmate of the Oradea penitentiary in Romania looks out from an armoured bus as he is transported to the theatre for a play rehearsal Tuesday. Inmates from across the country travelled to Bucharest to perform in the Multi Art Penitentiary Theatre Festival. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cross-border battle. Doctor on trial over stepdaughter's death

A 77-year-old German doctor has gone back on trial in France over the death of his 15-year-old stepdaughter, following a decades-long cross-border battle for justice by the girl's biological father.

Dieter Krombach was convicted last year and sentenced to 15 years in prison for "intentional violence that led to unintentional death." He appealed the conviction and the appeal opened Tuesday.

His stepdaughter Kalinka died in 1982. Kalinka's father, Andre Bamberski, believed the doctor gave her a dangerous injection so he could rape her. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

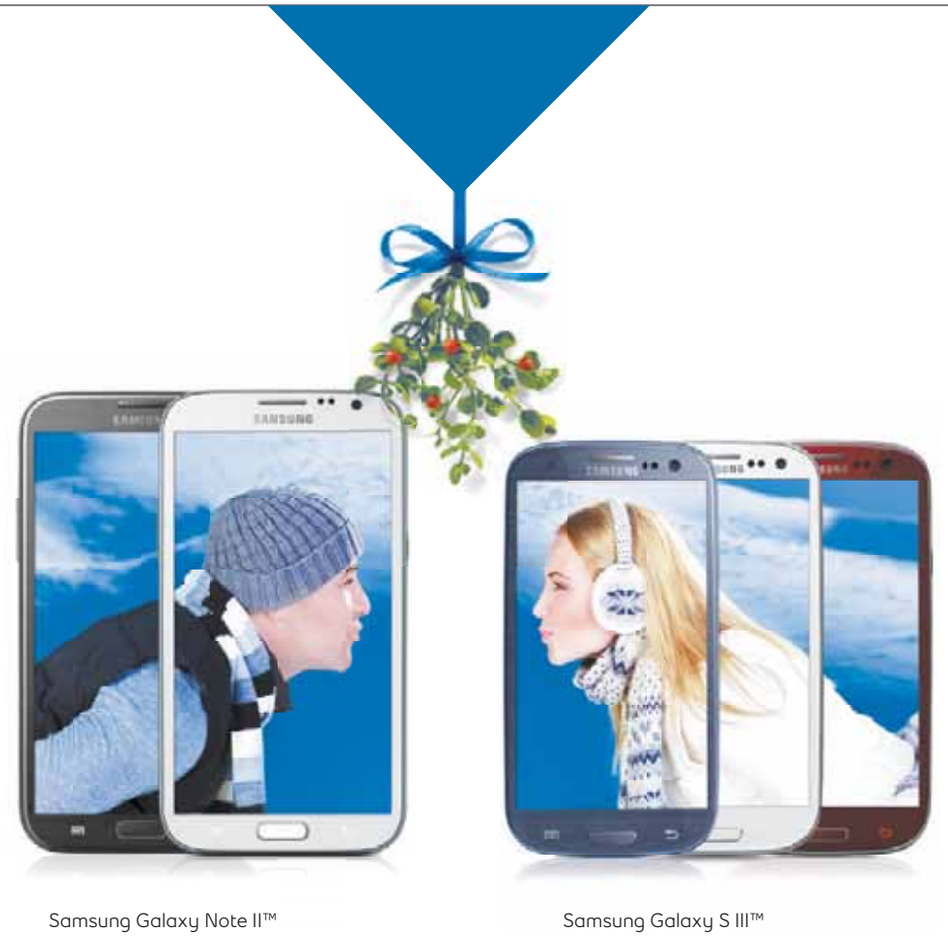

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Diagram suggests Iran testing weapons

Calculating force.
Leaked document shows simulations of potential nuclear explosives

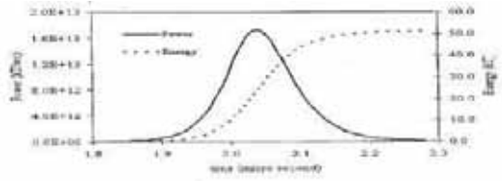
Iranian scientists have run computer simulations for a nuclear weapon that would produce more than triple the explosive force of the Second World War bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, according to a diagram obtained by The Associated Press.

The undated diagram was leaked by officials from a country critical of Iran's atomic program to bolster their arguments that Iran's nuclear program must be halted before it produces a weapon. The officials provided the diagram only on condition that they and their country not be named.

The International Atomic Energy Agency — the Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog — reported last year that it had obtained diagrams indicating that Iran was calculating the "nuclear explosive yield" of potential weapons. A senior diplomat who is considered neutral on the issue confirmed that the graph obtained by The Associated Press was indeed one of those cited by the IAEA in that report. He spoke only on condition of anonymity.

David Albright, whose Institute for Science and International Security is used by the U.S. government as a go-to source on Iran's nuclear program, said the diagram looks genuine but seems to be designed more "to understand the process" than as part of a blueprint for an actual weapon in the making.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



شکل (5) تغییرات توان و انرژی آزاد شده بر حسب زمان طی پالس توان

The undated diagram that was given to The Associated Press allegedly calculating the explosive force of a nuclear weapon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Submarine's second life

Crews work to move the HMCS Ojibwa from a barge onto land on Tuesday in Port Burwell, Ont., where the Cold War-era sub is to be turned into a museum.

GEOFF ROBINS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WikiLeaks

Assange pushes for credit-card-company probe

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has urged the European Union to reverse its decision not to launch an anti-trust probe of U.S. credit card companies after they blocked donations to the secret-spilling website.

Visa and MasterCard were among half a dozen U.S. payment firms to start the financial blockade just after the group published some 250,000 secret State Department cables in December 2010.

Assange says they imposed the blockade at the instigation of "right-wing extremists" in the U.S. Congress. He was speaking via videoconference from Ecuador's embassy in London, where he has been living. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuclear weapons

Hackers of watchdog site identified

The International Atomic Energy Agency acknowledged Tuesday that one of its servers had been hacked after a previously unknown group critical of Israel's undeclared nuclear-weapons program posted contact details for more than 100 experts working for the UN nuclear watchdog.

A group called Parastoo — Farsi for the swallow bird and a common Iranian girl's name — claimed responsibility for posting the names on its website two days ago.

The hackers urged the experts whose names they published to sign a petition demanding an "open investigation" into Israel's nuclear program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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UN. France plans to say 'oui' to resolution on Palestinian statehood

France announced Tuesday that it plans to vote in favour of recognizing a Palestinian state at the UN General Assembly this week.

With the announcement, France becomes the first major European country to come out in favour, dealing a setback to Israel. The timing of the announcement appears aimed at swaying other European nations.

Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told parliament that France has long supported Palestinian ambitions for statehood and "will respond 'yes'" when the issue comes up for a vote "out of a concern for coherency."

The Palestinians say the assembly is likely to vote Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proceed with caution

"It's only through negotiations ... that we will be able to reach the realization of a Palestinian state."

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius

Ceasefire

Israel seeks to lift workers ban

Israel's envoy to the Philippines Ambassador Menashe Bar-on said Tuesday that he will ask the government to lift a ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Israel following the end of heavy fighting between Israeli and Hamas forces. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hungary

Racist remarks condemned

Lawmakers wore yellow stars and hundreds of protesters rallied on Tuesday to condemn a far-right politician who called for the screening of Jews for national security risks, part of a wave of racist comments from the Jobbik party. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arafat's political heirs open his grave for new probe

A Palestinian woman walks past a mural of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Gaza City. ADEL HANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 years later.

Samples taken to test for evidence the late Palestinian leader was poisoned

Eight years after Yasser Arafat's mysterious death, his political heirs opened his grave Tuesday and let forensics experts take samples from his remains, defying strong cultural taboos in search of evidence that the icon of Palestinian nationalism was poisoned.

Polonium-210

The radioactive substance was found on Arafat's clothing this past summer.

- **Inconclusive.** Polonium disintegrates rapidly, and experts have cautioned that too much time may have passed since Arafat's death to reach a definitive result.

Palestinians have claimed for years that Israel poisoned Arafat, who died in a French hospital. Israel has denied the charges.

The exhumation marked the end of months of procedural wrangling but only the beginning of the testing. Palestinian officials said it would take at least three months to get results, and even then, they might not be conclusive.

Workers opened Arafat's tomb before daybreak Tuesday, laying bare the remains some four meters below ground level, the Palestinian health minister said. A Palestinian forensics examiner took some 20 samples and handed them to Swiss, French and Russian experts, officials said.

Sheets of blue tarpaulin draped over the mausoleum hid the scene from view, part of an attempt by Palestinian officials to minimize any potential backlash against digging up the grave of Arafat, still widely revered in the Palestinian territories. By mid-morning, the grave was resealed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A gigantic steel arch will cover the remnants of the exploded reactor at the Chornobyl plant in Ukraine.
EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The colossus of Chornobyl

26 years later. A $1.3-billion arch will wipe out memories of the world's worst nuclear accident

They're covering up the ghosts of Chornobyl.

Workers have raised the first section of a colossal arch-shaped structure that eventually will cover the exploded nuclear reactor at the Chornobyl power station.

Project officials on Tuesday hailed the raising as a significant step in a complex effort to clean up the consequences of the 1986 explosion — the world's worst nuclear accident.

On completion, the shelter will be moved on tracks over the building containing the destroyed reactor, allowing work to begin on dismantling the reactor and disposing of radioactive waste.

Suma Chakrabati, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is leading the project, called Tuesday a "significant milestone."

It is a tribute, Chakrabati said, "to the ongoing commitment of the international donor community, and an important step toward overcoming the legacy of the accident."

The shelter, shaped like a gargantuan Quonset hut, will be 257 metres by 150 metres when completed and at its apex will be higher than the Statue of Liberty.

Officials who showed reporters around the construction site Tuesday were clearly delighted at the colossus taking shape, but concerned about the challenges ahead.

The shelter is to be moved over the reactor building by the end of 2015 — a deadline no one wants to miss given that the so-called sarcophagus hastily built over the reactor building after the 1986 explosion has an estimated service life of about 30 years.

The arch now under construction is only one of two segments that will eventually form the shelter, and so far it has only been raised to a height of 22 metres.

More structural elements have to be added before it reaches its full height.

"There's no room for error ... the schedule is very tight," said Vince Novak, director of the EBRD's nuclear safety department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I think this (shelter) will be so impressive that even in 100 years people will come to look at it."

Igor Gramotkin,
plant director

The sad legacy of Chornobyl

The April 26, 1986, accident in the then-Soviet republic of Ukraine sent a cloud of radioactive fallout over much of Europe.

- **The mass escape.** About 115,000 people in the plant's vicinity had to move to safety.
- **The ghost town.** A 30-kilometre area directly around the plant remains largely off-limits and the town of Pripyat, where the plant's workers once lived, today is a ghostly ruin of deteriorating apartment towers.
- **The sorry victims.** At least 28 people have died of acute radiation sickness from close exposure to the shattered reactor.
- **The cancer cases.** More than 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer have been detected in people who — as children and adolescents — were exposed to high levels of fallout after the blast.

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Twitter must address privacy fears, MP says

How safe are your tweets? Social-media giant must appear before a Commons committee, says Charlie Angus

Charlie Angus has given up using Twitter. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tweet this, Twitter fans.

NDP MP Charlie Angus says Canadians need to know more about how the social-media giant protects their privacy.

Angus publicly quit using the microblogging site earlier this year, likening it to being badgered by a drunk on a 24-hour bus ride.

But he says a House of Commons study on privacy and social media requires the company's input.

A Commons committee decided last May to study the steps being taken by social-media companies to protect the personal information of Canadians.

It followed high-profile interventions by Canada's privacy commissioner on the use of personal data by sites like Google and Facebook.

Both companies have appeared before the committee, but NDP MP Charmaine Borg says Twitter refused.

Quoted

"We're not going to have a full sense unless we have the main players. We need Twitter."
Charlie Angus

The company couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

The committee has now agreed to send a formal letter asking Twitter to testify.

Angus said Google and Facebook have supported the study, but the committee needs to go further.

Canadians are heavy users of social media.

A Paris-based analyst group reported in July that there are just over 10 million Twitter accounts based in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder charges. 'Deep down I had a feeling,' says mother of victim

Kathleen McCartney didn't want to believe it could be him.

But the mother of murder victim Christina Cline, originally from London, Ont., says when she learned Saturday night her daughter's ex-fiancé and father of her three children was being charged in her killing, it didn't come as any real surprise.

"I didn't want to believe it, but deep down I had a feeling," Cline told Metro by phone from her London home.

Dustin Brian Hales and his wife, Victoria Ann Weir-Hales, are each charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Cline.

Her body was found by a man walking in Halifax's Shubie Park on Nov. 19, 2011.

Hales and Cline were together for about 10 years, and had three children, now aged eight, nine and 10.

Cline met Hales while she lived in London and McCartney says the two moved to Halifax when she was about 18.

Christina Cline had thought about moving back to London, her mom says. CONTRIBUTED

McCartney says Cline was looking to move back to London and wanted to bring her three kids with her.

Hales, she says, wasn't happy about the idea, and a court order was issued preventing Cline from taking the kids outside Nova Scotia.

Hales and his wife were arrested last year and questioned but later released.

"We didn't have the evidence, but now we do," said Halifax Regional Police spokesperson Const. Pierre Bourdages. "It's a complex investigation."

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Sperm donor case

Her dad's identity stays hidden

The B.C. Court of Appeal has thrown out an earlier decision that sided with a woman who wanted to know the identity of her sperm-donor father.

Olivia Pratten wanted offspring like herself to be treated the same as people who are adopted.

But the court ruled there is no legal right for offspring to know their past and providing such information would amount to state intrusion into many people's lives. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two women died

Elliot Lake probe gets secrecy plea

The owners of a mall that collapsed in Elliot Lake, Ont., killing two women, are asking a public inquiry to keep some of their documents secret.

A similar request has come from an engineering association related to disciplinary measures taken against two engineers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former residents of N.S. orphanage fight for inquiry

Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children. Petition with more than 1,000 signatures calls for immediate public look at abuse allegations

Former residents of a Halifax orphanage took their fight for a public inquiry into long-standing allegations of abuse to the provincial legislature Tuesday, where they presented a petition in support of their cause.

About 50 former residents of the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children delivered the document containing more than 1,000 signatures calling for immediate government action.

Tracey Dorrington-Skinner, a spokeswoman for the group, said the government needs to know that the former residents believe an inquiry is essential in order for them to heal and get justice. "We're not prepared to back down," she said. "At the end of the day, we will get justice one way or the other."

Physical- and sexual-abuse allegations against staff at the home, which is now a short-term residential facility for children of all races, first came to light more than a decade ago. But no charges have been laid.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dragging on

100+

More than 100 people are now part of the class-action suit, which was filed earlier this year against the home and the provincial government. The majority of the claims are decades old.

Keeping calm and carrying on

A woman carries her dog as she makes her way through flood waters in St. Asaph, North Wales, Tuesday, after the town flooded overnight. Thousands of drivers and residents face further chaos today after heavy rain continued to fall across Britain. DAVE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

Judge orders return of 3 U.S.-born children to their deported Mexican father

A North Carolina judge has ordered three U.S.-born children to be reunited with their deported Mexican father.

Social-services officials had sought to terminate the parental rights of Felipe Montes, who crossed the border illegally in 2003 to work on Christmas-tree farms near the mountain town of Sparta. Montes later married a U.S. citizen and the couple had three sons.

Tuesday's ruling potentially clears the way for the children to live with their father in El Encino, a small village in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax

Man acquitted of voyeurism charges

A man accused of watching women while they slept was found guilty Tuesday of one count of break-and-enter, but acquitted of several charges of voyeurism in a case that caused alarm in Halifax.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chanting, "Leave, leave!" Egyptians took over Cairo's Tahrir Square on Tuesday, demonstrating against President Mohammed Morsi. The square was the birthplace of the uprising against former president Hosni Mubarak.
KHALIL HAMRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters decry Morsi's power grab

They're back. Arab Spring slogans heard again in Egypt after president grants himself more power

More than 200,000 people packed Cairo's central Tahrir Square on Tuesday, chanting against Egypt's Islamist president in a powerful show of strength demanding Mohammed Morsi revoke edicts granting himself near autocratic powers.

With the mass protests in Tahrir Square and in several other cities — comparable in size to those during last year's uprising that overthrew Hosni Mubarak — opposition to the decrees issued last week turned into a broader outpouring of anger against the rule of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood.

Waving Egypt's red, white and black flags, crowds of protesters marched across Cairo to stream into the iconic central plaza, birthplace of the anti-Mubarak uprising. By the evening, it was thronging with a massive crowd. Clashes broke out in several cities as Morsi's opponents tried to attack offices of the Brotherhood, setting fire to at least one.

Ringing out at Tahrir was the central chant of the Arab Spring revolts: "The people want to bring down the regime," and "erhal, erhal" — Arabic for "leave, leave."

"Suddenly, Morsi is issuing laws and becoming the absolute ruler, holding all powers in his hands," said protester Mona Sadek, a 31-year-old engineering graduate who wears the Islamic veil, a hallmark of piety. "Our revolt against the decrees became a protest against the Brotherhood as well," she said. Morsi's edicts effectively neutralize the judiciary, the only branch of government in a position to balance Morsi.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morsi 'won't back down'

"We are not rescinding the declaration."

Gehad el-Haddad, adviser to the Brotherhood and its political party. He said the opposition was "very divided" and Morsi would not back down.

'Revolution hijacked'

Protest organizers on a stage in the square called for another mass rally on Friday.

- If the Brotherhood responds with mass rallies of its own it would raise the prospect of greater violence after a series of clashes in recent days.
- Raafat Magdi, an engineer, said, "The Brotherhood hijacked the revolution."

Syria. Assad regime bombs olive oil factory, killing 20 civilians, activists say

Syrian warplanes bombed an olive oil factory packed with farmers Tuesday, killing at least 20 people in the latest regime strike to rip through a crowd of civilians, activists said.

The bombing comes as the civil war takes a devastating toll on an already beleaguered population. Human Rights Watch said it found "compelling evidence" that the regime used cluster bombs in an airstrike that killed at least 11 children earlier this week.

It was not immediately clear whether the olive press was the intended target, or if the plane misfired. The government generally does not comment on rebel claims and there was no official reaction to the latest allegations.

But two anti-regime activist groups said the factory was hit Tuesday near the northern city of Idlib. Dozens had gathered to have their olives pressed when the warplanes struck. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tunisia

Protest leads to clashes with cops

A strike by Tunisians protesting government neglect has degenerated into clashes with police that have left 14 people wounded.

Witnesses and the state news agency reported that residents of the central town of Siliana went on a general strike Tuesday and marched through the streets, demanding more government funds and development.

Police fired tear gas after demonstrators threw stones. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland to decide on abortions

Legal framework. Government addresses issue of abortions for life-threatening pregnancies

Ireland published an experts' report Tuesday recommending that the government define when a woman in a life-threatening pregnancy can receive an abortion — a major national issue since the death of an Indian woman in an Irish hospital last month.

The report represents Ireland's slow official response to a 2010 European Court of Human Rights ruling that existing Irish laws did not ensure that women in life-threatening pregnancies could receive an abortion.

Ireland has a constitutional ban on abortion, but such terminations have been technically legal in Ireland since a 1992 Irish Supreme Court ruling. Several governments have since refused to pass backing legislation, leaving doctors unsure when they can actually perform them without facing lawsuits or criminal prosecution for murder.

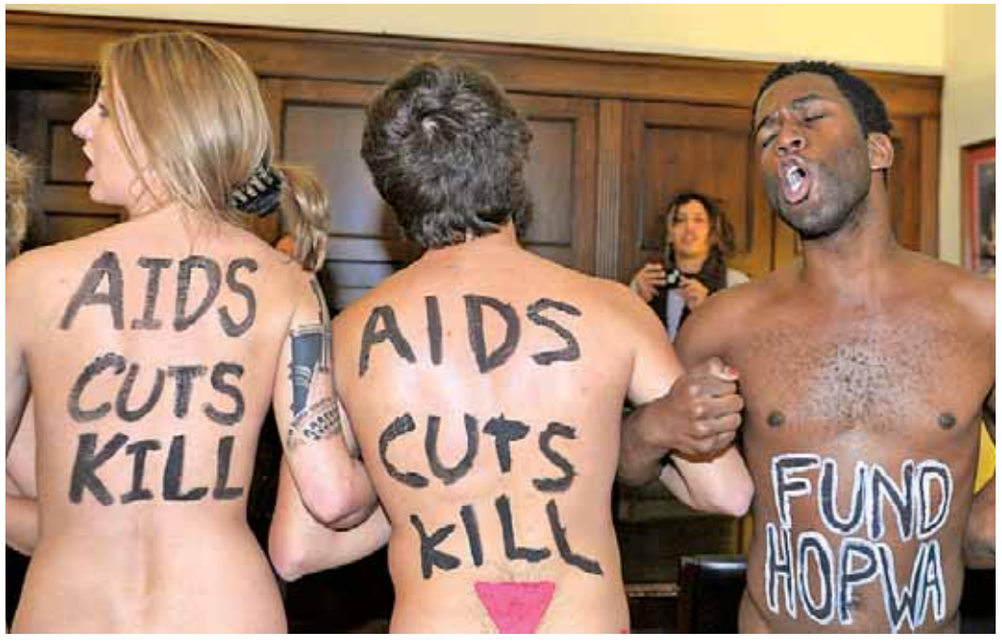
Health Minister James Reilly said the government would choose an option next month outlined in the report. "We will not allow this issue to drag on," he said. Reilly then appeared to show the government's hand, saying legislation would be passed "as quickly as possible." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

International outrage

Savita Halappanavar, a woman 17 weeks pregnant, died Oct. 28 one week after being admitted to a Galway hospital suffering from severe pain.

- Halappanavar was quickly diagnosed with an imminent miscarriage but doctors refused her pleas for an abortion because the doomed fetus still had a heartbeat.

Abortion-rights protesters bearing pictures of Savita Halappanavar march through Dublin on Nov. 17, demanding Ireland's government ensures abortions can be performed to save a woman's life. SHAWN POGATCHNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Activists highlight 'naked truth' about AIDS spending cuts

Naked AIDS activists, saying they wanted to highlight the "naked truth" about potential spending cuts in HIV programs, protest inside the Capitol Hill office of House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio on Tuesday, prior to World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. Three women activists, who had linked arms with four men who also disrobed as part of the protest, were arrested after taking their clothes off in the lobby of Boehner's office. The protest occurred as congressional leaders and President Barack Obama seek a deal to avert automatic spending cuts and tax increases in January. SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex allegations. Third man makes claims against Elmo puppeteer

A Florida man has sued the ex-Elmo puppeteer who resigned amid sex allegations, saying the voice actor met him in New York after trolling gay telephone chat lines seeking underage boys for sex.

The lawsuit seeking unspecified damages was filed in Manhattan federal court Tuesday by a man who remains anonymous.

The man says he met Kevin Clash on a chat line when he was 16 years old in 2000 and exploring modelling opportunities in New York.

The lawsuit says Clash had numerous Elmo dolls in his apartment when he met the teen for sex.

The man, now 29, is the third to make claims against Clash, who resigned from Sesame Street last week after 28 years.

A spokeswoman says Clash "believes this lawsuit has no merit." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Animal attack. Zoo calendar features dogs that fatally mauled boy

The Pittsburgh Zoo is featuring the animals that fatally mauled a two-year-old boy earlier this year on the March page of its 2013 calendar.

Zoo officials say the calendars featuring pictures of African painted dogs had already been printed and made available to patrons before the Nov. 4 death of Maddox Derkosh.

The boy died after falling off a railing and into the animals' habitat, where he was attacked.

Zoo President Barbara Baker tells the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that officials considered scrapping the calendars after the boy's death but they'd already been on sale beforehand.

Baker says the dogs are an endangered species the zoo is responsible for helping protect.

The exhibit remains closed to the public. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Corruption crackdown

China censors let cadre's sex tape go viral

A five-year-old sex tape of an 18-year-old woman allegedly hired by developers to sleep with a city official is causing yet another scandal for China's ruling Communists in the city formerly led by fallen politician Bo Xilai.

The official, Lei Zhengfu, was fired from his position as district party secretary after the video, an apparent extortion attempt, went viral earlier this month and his jowly, pop-eyed mug became the butt of numerous Internet caricatures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug bust

Macedonia confiscates half a ton of weed

Macedonian authorities have seized more than half a ton of marijuana in a truck at a border crossing with Albania and arrested the driver.

Police said Tuesday the 540 kilograms of marijuana had an estimated market value of $3.9 million.

Interior Minister Gordana Jankulovska described Monday's seizure as the largest single batch of marijuana ever confiscated in Macedonia. According to police, the drug had been produced in Albania. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PSY in Bangkok

Thai inmates get down ... Gangnam style

A day before South Korean rap sensation PSY brings his Gangnam Style to Thailand, scores of inmates have danced to the hit behind barbed wire and bars in a Bangkok prison.

Seventy out of 4,500 prisoners at Bangkok Remand Prison put on a show Tuesday for the media and corrections department executives after competing in a Gangnam-style dance contest last week.

Officials said the program helps relieve inmates' stress and keep them fit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parking spots are Hong Kong's newest investment craze

Speculation. This past weekend, buyers paid up to $167K per space

Investors looking for new places to park their cash in Hong Kong are driving up prices for parking spaces, sparking fears of a bubble in the Asian financial centre.

Prices for parking spots in Hong Kong are nearing historic highs, the side effect of government curbs to cool the housing market amid worries of overheating following the latest round of monetary stimulus in the U.S. last month.

There are "a lot of speculators in the market, especially for car parks," said Buggle Lau, senior analyst with Midland Realty. A bubble is "definitely forming."

Over the weekend, a developer sold about 500 parking spots at a new suburban apartment complex at prices of up to about $167,000 per space.

In a commercial building near the city's financial district on Hong Kong Island, an investor has put 34 parking spaces on sale for about $12.9 million, according to a report last week in the Ming Pao newspaper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebrated Hong Kong model Lisa S sits in a Porsche at the Beijing Auto Show in this file photo. Where do you park your Porsche in Hong Kong? In a $167,000 parking space, according to the latest transactions. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Market Minute

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OIL $87.18 US (-56¢)

GOLD $1,742.30 US (-$7.30)

Natural gas: $3.89 US (+16¢)
Dow Jones: 12,878.13 (-89.24)

Man sets himself on fire in Yemen to protest dispute with his Calgary-based employer

Medical officials say a Yemeni man, who was reportedly protesting a dispute with his Canadian employer, has set himself on fire outside the Cabinet building in the capital Sanaa.

The officials say Abdel-Hakim Hamoud Qasim is in critical condition after Tuesday's self-immolation. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief reporters.

His cousin, Mohammed Qasim, says Abdel-Hakim was protesting a complaint he had filed to the Ministry of Petroleum against Calgary-based oil and gas company Nexen, for which he worked as a driver for 16 years until 2006. Mohammed says his cousin was severely injured on the job in Yemen and only paid $3,000 after the accident. Nexen could not be immediately reached for comment.

A similar act of self-immolation in Tunisia last year helped trigger a series of uprisings in Arab countries, including Yemen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BOYZ OF MIXED MESSAGEZ AND MISUNDERSTANDINGZ

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

There's an epidemic of misunderstanding going on.

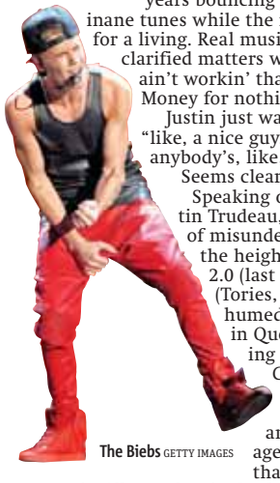
Why, just the other day, I was misunderstood by a reader who called me "rich" and "arrogant." He was, at best, only half right. I'm tempted to clarify, but that usually leads to more misunderstanding.

Ford Nation Chief-in-turmoil TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

At least I'm not alone. If I think I'm misunderstood, what about poor Rob Ford, the mayor of Toronto? He tried so hard to make everything simple;for example, he characterized the complex problems of transit in a North American megacity as "the war on cars." And what thanks does he get? Booted out of office for conflict of interest around his football association, that's what.

It's not his fault. It's those leftists like lawyer Clayton Ruby who fail to understand that he's a simple man of the people who doesn't get conflict of interest and all that stuff.

Then there's Justin Bieber, the world's most misunderstood pop tart, who was booed every time he showed his face at the Grey Cup, even though there were worthy alternative targets such as Burton Cummings' ridiculous rendition of O Canada. Justin thinks these "haterz" hate the very idea of Justin Bieber. They can't stand it that some kid made more than $100 million over the last two years bouncing around the stage to inane tunes while the rest of us had to work for a living. Real musician Mark Knopfler clarified matters when he sang: "That ain't workin' that's the way you do it. Money for nothin' ..."



The Biebs GETTY IMAGES

Justin just wants to be known as, "like, a nice guy. But I won't take anybody's, like, s–t."

Seems clear to me.

Speaking of Justin, there's Justin Trudeau, yet another victim of misunderstanding. Right at the height of Trudeaumania 2.0 (last week), the haterz (Tories, in this case), exhumed a video clip of Justin in Quebec circa 2010 moaning about the state of Canada because of the Albertans "who control our community and socio-democratic agenda." Needless to say, that was misunderstood in Alberta, but in Quebec nothing was lost in translation.

What he meant to convey was that "Albertans" was shorthand for Stephen Harper and his gang of neo-Tories, but everybody just misunderstood. I am also tempted to point out that a lot of people don't understand that Stephen Harper is, in fact, from Etobicoke. Like Rob Ford.

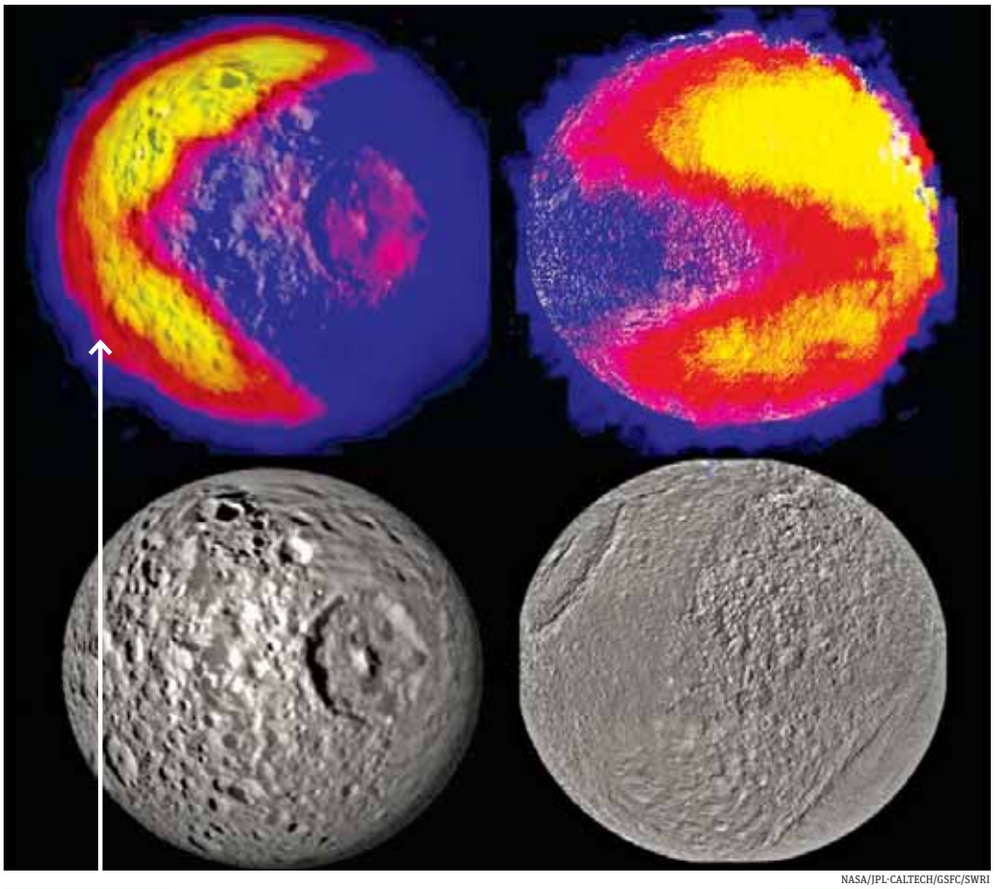
Now Etobicoke is going to start complaining that it's misunderstood.

Before that happens, we need to nip this epidemic in the bud. The only thing Rob Ford, Justin Bieber and Justin Trudeau don't understand is that the people (at least the leftists, haterz and Tories) are not fooled. They understand, only too well.

Except when it comes to me, of course.

Trudeau 2.0 THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pac-Man replays on moons



NASA/JPL-CALTECH/GSFC/SWRI

Space exploration

Video-game hero spotted in moons

NASA put a man on the moon in the 1960s — a few decades later Pac-Man appears on two of Saturn's moons. Scientists with the Cassini spacecraft mission have identified two features shaped like the 1980s video-game icon on moons of Saturn. One was observed on the moon Mimas, left, in 2010 and the latest was observed on the moon Tethys.

These remarkable infrared images measure the surface temperature of the two satellites. In a new report, researchers theorize that this distinctive pattern is the result of high-energy electrons colliding into low latitudes on the forward-facing sides moons as they orbit around Saturn. This bombardment transforms the normally "fluffy" surface into hard-packed ice, NASA said. METRO

Screenshot of the 1980 arcade game Pac-Man. NAMCO

Temperature

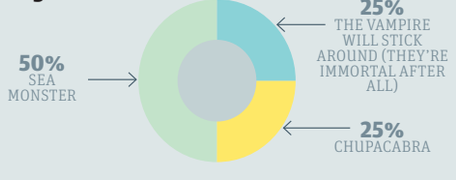
-185 C

is the warmest temperature recorded on the surface of Tethys in data obtained on Sept. 14. Daytime temperatures inside the mouth of Pac-Man were seen to be cooler than their surroundings by 1.6 C.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Now that the Twilight saga is over, what creature is set to capture the attention of the next generation of impressionable youngsters?



Twitter

@AskEmilyExpo: The jig is up! The @Calgaryexpo has @alyankovic heading to @YYC! Info at available at calgaryexpo.com

@Jenndalen: I don't care what anyone says, learning is seriously AWESOME! #truth #yyc

@ScottyDuece: Girls shouldn't wear yoga pants #saidnooneever #yyc

@antipretty_yyc: I just had the most adorable encounter with the bunnies outside my apartment. I may have to bring all 5 of them inside for cuddles.

@slickrich24: #yyc #rushhour #peoplewatch nosepicking and texting top 2 activities so far.

@kayyfed: "Calgar to raise seniors' annual transit pass from $55 to $95 next year" more old people will keep driving. #badidea #yyc

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James Gandolfini plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly. HANDOUT

James Gandolfini: I'm 'like a 260-pound Woody Allen'

Killing Them Softly. Hard to erase memories of Tony Soprano in new film

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Tony Soprano was one of the most recognizable television characters of the last decade, yet the man who breathed life into him, actor James Gandolfini, says, "I never think about him, ever."

He may not, but audiences do. It's difficult to see the burly actor in any other role without thinking about the troubled gangster he played on 86 episodes of The Sopranos.

This weekend, he plays a foul-mouthed hitman in Killing Them Softly, opposite Brad Pitt and Ray Liotta. Despite his powerful presence, the role likely won't do much to erase memories of Soprano.

The New-Jersey-born actor first earned notice playing — you guessed it — a hitman in Tony Scott's True Romance. Similar roles in movies like Get Shorty followed, but Gandolfini says he is nothing like the tough guy characters he so frequently plays.

Even though he once earned a living as a bouncer (he also delivered seltzer for a company called Gimme Seltzer) and has repeatedly unlocked a wellspring of rage on screen, he says, "I'm a neurotic mess. I'm really basically just like a 260-pound Woody Allen."

Perhaps that's what he tapped into when he voiced Carol, the impulsive creature in Where the Wild Things Are.

It's a sensitive performance that shows off Gandolfini's softer side. He does go on a "wild ruckus," but at least he doesn't shoot anybody.

In fact, we may soon see less and less of his badass side. "I'm getting a little older, you know," he says. "The running and the jumping and killing, it's a little past me."

In the dark indie Welcome to the Rileys (directed by Jake Scott, son of Ridley) he's unarmed, playing a troubled businessman whose life unravels when he befriends a stripper, played by Kristen Stewart.

In the Loop, a wild satire of British politics, saw Gandolfini take a detour into comedy, but his strangest movie came in 2010. Mint Julep was made in 1995 after Gandolfini had appeared in Terminal Velocity and Crimson Tide, but because of money issues it wasn't released until after The Sopranos was off the air. Noticeably thinner, and with more hair, he plays a perverted landlord opposite David Morse.

Yet another side of the actor can be seen in Alive Day: Home from Iraq, a documentary in which he interviews injured Iraq War veterans about the physical and emotional costs of war.

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Life goes on After the Rose for Brad and Bianka

The Bachelor. Runner-up Whitney returns for final episode

Last week, Brad Smith made his choice on The Bachelor Canada. He proposed to Bianka, who eagerly accepted the rose. The 29-year-old registered nurse beat out 24 other women for a shot at marital bliss with the ex-CFL football player.

But what happens After the Rose? A peek behind the fairy tale romance can be seen Wednesday night in an hour-long final episode of the Citytv reality series.

The episode was taped a few weeks ago before 300 fans at the picturesque, seaside town of Sidney, B.C. It had been two months since Brad had actually proposed in Barbados. The two had not been allowed out in public together since then for fear of tipping off viewers. Their only contact, they both said, was through Skype

"I've already tried to marry her," Brad reveals right after the taping. He tried to convince Bianka to elope with him.

"To actually have a normal life, far from all this cloak and dagger stuff, would be awesome," said Smith, 29.

The two lovebirds seemed quite affectionate during and after the taping. Bianka marvelled at how much they have in common. They agree on everything, she says: "the favourite beer, the favourite wine, the favourite sandwich at Wendy's."

Suggestions that you can't find the love of your life over the course of an eight-week reality show were waved off as so much heard-it-before cynicism.

"To have an organic relationship from that experience is impossible, yet we have it," says Smith. "It was a TV show, yet it was so friggin' real."

Things can, however, get a little thorny after the rose. Smith says he was nervous coming face to face one last time with the turbulent runner-up, Whitney. The contestant from Calgary quickly became the villain of the series with all her "Brad's mine!" comments to the camera.

She's back and all glammed up for Wednesday's final confrontation. Smith doesn't exactly welcome her back. Instead, he does a lot of finger pointing. "I wanted everybody in Canada to see what I had to deal with the past four weeks," he said after the taping.

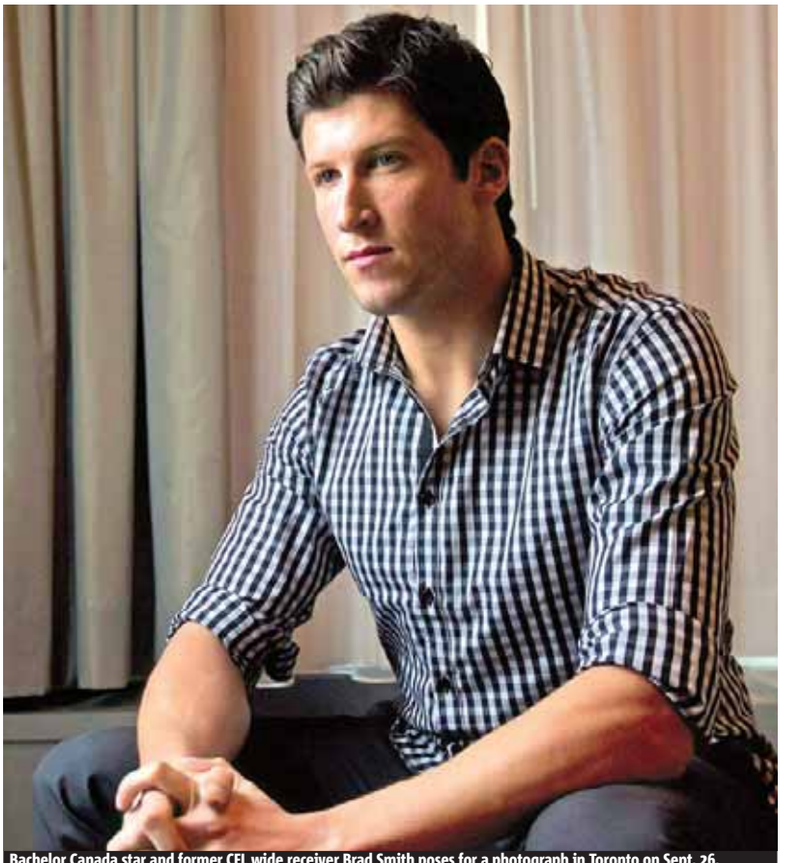
"She has a severe ability to jumble things up; it's truly frustrating to be around, especially when you just want an answer."

The studio audience gets into what shapes up to be a Springer moment. You half expect to hear cries of "Jerry! Jerry!"

"She's a polarizing figure, there's no question," says host Tyler Harcott, who referees the session, at times almost acting as if he was Whitney's therapist. "She brought a lot of that on herself. Unfortunately, she painted herself as the villain."

What worries Harcott is how the rep will follow the 24-year-old administrative assistant.

"The Twitter world, the Facebook world, that part breaks my heart," says Harcott. "I don't think people realize that these people aren't actors, they go to the coffee shop like the rest of us." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bachelor Canada star and former CFL wide receiver Brad Smith poses for a photograph in Toronto on Sept. 26.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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James Bond villains should gang up on 007: Former villain

Mads Mikkelsen.
Actor in Toronto shooting upcoming series Hannibal

When Mads Mikkelsen played Bond villain Le Chiffre in 2006's Casino Royale, his character met an untimely demise.

But the Danish actor jokes that if Le Chiffre could somehow be brought back to life and paired with Javier Bardem's malevolent Raoul Silva from the latest Bond instalment Skyfall, they might be able to take 007 down for good.

"I think the two of us together might be able to finally get him," Mikkelsen said Monday while promoting his new movie A Royal Affair.

Mads Mikkelsen
GETTY IMAGES

"We could do something about that Bond character once and for all."

Mikkelsen has been in Toronto for the last few months shooting the upcoming TV series Hannibal, based on the famed Silence of the Lambs character.

His son is attending school here and the actor is familiarizing himself with the city (he says he couldn't get tickets for Sunday's Grey Cup and ended up watching it on TV).

One of Denmark's biggest heart-throbs, Mikkelsen says he's also found time to see Skyfall — and loved it.

"I thought it was brilliant," he said, adding that it would be "fun" to somehow return to the Bond franchise.

A Royal Affair — a sweeping period drama — is set to open Jan. 18 in Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. It's Denmark's entry in the foreign-language Oscar race.

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Will.i.am arrives at the 40th Anniversary American Music Awards on in Los Angeles earlier this month. JORDAN STRAUSS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Will.i.am talks pop and culture

#willpower. Megastar hits Toronto to mark the release of his new video collaboration, Scream & Shout, featuring Britney Spears

For all his zeitgeist-tapping chart-conquering as leader of the Black Eyed Peas, Will.i.am's solo career has been curiously lacking in commercial success.

Songs About Girls, his third solo record released in 2007, just cracked the U.S. top 40 album chart but failed to ignite, and that was the highest any of his records has ascended.

And it's unlikely anyone has spent more time thinking about that than Will.i.am himself.

"There's reasons why it didn't connect — I've spent many nights thinking about that," the 37-year-old said during a recent interview in Toronto.

According to the pop-rap star, the album failed for a myriad of reasons: he began experimenting with dance music too early without collaborating with any cred-boosting electronic stars, he didn't yet understand how to properly promote the record internationally and he chose the wrong song as the album's first single, opting for the upbeat I Got It From My Mama.

"I didn't listen to my gut — I listened to executives saying, 'We like this song! It's catchy!"' he said, relaxed but animated on the couch of a Toronto hotel room.

"That's part of the reason why Songs About Girls didn't do (more), because I didn't really understand the science of how things worked at that point in my life."

On this day, Will.i.am is in town to promote his fourth solo album, #willpower. It's since been delayed until 2013 due to leaks, but Wednesday will mark the release of a new video for the icy Britney Spears club collaboration Scream & Shout, premiering during the evening broadcast of The X Factor.

Talking to the fashion-forward rap star, whose real name is William Adams, it's clear that he has a deep understanding of the ebb and flow of pop trends.

At one point, he delves with almost overwhelming detail into the unique marketing needs of various countries — including France, Canada, the U.K., Japan, Brazil and Australia — rhyming off which press outlets in which countries are crucial for promotion.

He's similarly strategic about monitoring the tide of pop music in general, hoping to hone in on which waves are worth riding.

"I like to be a sponge. Travel, sponge up culture," he said, smiling. "I'm an anthropologist (of) pop culture ... so I will be a popthropologist."

Goofy wordplay aside, he's entirely serious about the art of music commerce.

The Black Eyed Peas have been a frequent target for critical derision for their carefree pop, which has been sometimes deemed crassly opportunistic — this is the group behind My Humps, after all.

But the group's success is impossible to deny. They've won six Grammy Awards and racked up more than 18 platinum plaques in Canada, while sending five singles including I Gotta Feeling and Boom Boom Pow to the top of the charts.

He's used his abilities for pop prognostication to help other artists, having landed production or songwriting credits on a long line of singles including Estelle's American Boy, Nas' Hip Hop is Dead, John Legend's Ordinary People, U2's I'll Go Crazy If I Don't Go Crazy Tonight and Britney Spears' Big Fat Bass.

The stars returned the favour when it was time to round up collaborations for #willpower. Although the ongoing retooling of the album makes it unclear which artists will remain on the final version, Will.i.am has worked with Mick Jagger, Jennifer Lopez, Spears, Alicia Keys, LMFAO and Chris Brown for tracks intended at one point for the record.

He also worked with Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber, and the 18-year-old certainly left an impression.

"He's cool — he's really nice, down to earth. As big as he is, he's pretty humble and passionate and excited about music,"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"I like to be a sponge. Travel, sponge up culture. I'm an anthropologist (of) pop culture ... so I will be a popthropologist."

Will.i.am
On his influences

Will's way

Will.i.am, whose real name is William Adams, says his musical style has required an understanding of general hip-hop trends in the past 25 years.

- **Street cred.** According to the California native, rap music went through a cycle of hardened street material in the late 1980s —headlined by N.W.A — then segued into a period of blithe, danceable material in the early 1990s.
- **Progression and regression.** He saw the pattern repeat with the popularity of such gritty rappers as 50 Cent and Ja Rule toward the beginning of the last decade, and was confident the pendulum would swing back.

"It was just bombardment — gangsta, gangsta, gangsta, hard, hard, hard. Where's the release? Oh shucks, it's coming from this electro stuff."
–Will.i.am

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Which celebrity do you want to take home?

Stars for sale. Stores are cashing in on celebrities' money-making names with trendsetters like the Kardashians and Madonna hitting the shelves

This holiday season you're likely to spot singer Jennifer Lopez in Kohl's. You could get a peek at pop music icon Madonna in Macy's. You might even catch a glimpse of reality TV star Kim Kardashian in Sears.

Well, not literally.

These celebrities likely won't be making guest appearances in the aisles of your favourite department stores. But clothes, shoes and even ties that bear their names will.

It's part of a big push by stores to cash in on celebrities' money-making names. The move can be savvy. After all, who wouldn't want to don the stylish duds of a superstar? It can also be risky. The stars, figuratively, have to be aligned for celebrity lines to become a hit with shoppers. That can mean having the right celebrity pair up with the right store at the right time with the right amount of involvement in the design of the line.

"If it's simply to monetize your moment in the sun, it is not going to work in the long-term," says Ivanka Trump, the billionaire daughter of real estate mogul Donald Trump and a reality TV personality who has a line of $150 handbags and $125 pumps at Lord & Taylor and other stores. "You have to be involved in every aspect of the product line."

Celebs have long dabbled in design. But with the growth of TV shows and websites that follow everything celebrities say, wear and do, interest in their clothing lines has risen in recent years. Indeed, North America revenue from celebrity clothing lines, excluding merchandise linked to athletes, rose six per cent last year to $7.58 billion in 2011, according to the latest figures available by The Licensing Letter, an industry trade publication. That's on top of a nearly five per cent increase in 2010.

Major department stores, facing growing competition from trendy fashion chains such as H&M, Mango and Zara have jumped on the trend. They're hoping to reap benefits from the lines during the holiday shopping season in November through December, a time when stores can make up to 40 per cent of their annual revenue. Big stores now get as much as a quarter of their sales from celebrity brands, up from under 10 per cent five years ago, according to market research firm NPD Group.

It's important that a celebrity doesn't say or do things that could reflect poorly on a store's image. Earlier this month, an angry customer started an online campaign calling for Macy's to dump Donald Trump's line of $65 power ties and $65 dress shirts after the billionaire verbally attacked President Barack Obama on social media after he was re-elected.

Angelo Carusone, 30, has collected nearly 673,000 signatures on petition website signon.org. Carusone, once a loyal Macy's shopper, says he won't shop there again until the retailer severs ties with Trump. "Macy's is building a brand on Trump's consequence-free bullying," he says.

But Macy's has stood by the billionaire, and the uproar has since died down. "Macy's marketing and merchandise offerings are not representative of any political position," says Jim Sluzewski, a spokesman for the chain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"If it's simply to monetize your moment in the sun, it is not going to work in the long-term."

Ivanka Trump

Ivanka Trump attends the Henri Bendel holiday window unveiling at Henri Bendel on Nov. 15, 2012 in New York City. JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY IMAGES FOR HENRI BENDEL

Madonna launched her fragrance Truth or Dare in April. STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES

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#503	2 Bedrooms	$282,900	$257,900	5%
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Rowling sells her Scotland home, makes a mint

J.K. Rowling is a bit of a wizard when it comes to real estate. The bestselling author recently sold the Edinburgh, Scotland home — where she wrote four of her seven Harry Potter novels — for $3.6 million after just three weeks on the market, according to People magazine. Rowling bought the top half of the home in 1999 and later bought the downstairs section and converted it into a single home with eight bedrooms, a walled garden and a detached office in the back. The buyer is an anonymous Scottish businessman.

J.K. Rowling

Twitter

@TheRealRoseanne
my deviled eggs are the best

@jason_mraz
yoga makes me fart.

@EvaLongoria
And the tree is unloaded and UP!

@SarahKSilverman
There should be an age limit on wearing those zig-zag Charlie Brown T-shirts

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Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Pitt and Jolie: Finally getting hitched?

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie may be finally making good on their engagement and getting married sooner rather than later.

"I am getting more pressure from my kids, and it is something I want to do within their lifetime," he tells reporters at the Killing Them Softly premiere, according to Hollyscoop.

"But I also feel like the time has come. The time is now. It's soon. I got a good feeling about it."

And Pitt admits it's not just pressure from the kids that has him eager to tie the knot.

It turns out he's into the idea as well: "We've had a family, we've raised the kids. I am surprised how much [marriage] meant to me once you had that," he says.

Shia LaBeouf

LaBeouf and Pho no more

Shia LaBeouf has split up with his girlfriend of two years, Karolyn Pho, according to Us Weekly.

A source tells the magazine that the Lawless star and stylist Pho actually broke up "a while ago," and LaBeouf is clearly already moving on, having been spotted cosying up to a mystery blond over the weekend at L.A.'s the Magic Castle.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Today in celebrity lawsuits

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Celebrities. If they aren't getting divorced, they're getting sued. Here's a breakdown of the latest legal woes of your favourite stars.

While Halle Berry is hoping to make her temporary restraining order against ex Gabriel Aubry permanent following his bloody Thanksgiving row with her fiancé, Olivier Martinez, Aubry himself is reportedly seeking legal protection, according to TMZ. In his legal declaration following the incident, Aubry claims that Martinez threatened his life and used intimidating language the day before the fight, during a school play featuring Nahla, the daughter Berry and Aubry share. Aubry has been granted a restraining order of his own against Martinez.

The lawsuits just keep coming for Kevin Clash, the beleaguered ex-voice of Elmo. He's been slammed with a third accusation of having sex with an underage boy a week after a similar allegation prompted him to resign from Sesame Street. A man identified only as John Doe alleges Clash engaged in oral sex and other sex acts with him when he was 16 years old. The suit, which was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, seeks at least $75,000 in damages, per Reuters.

A Katt Williams fan isn't just brushing off a terrible performance by the comedian — he's suing the star on behalf of everyone who had to witness it. This week, Brian Herline of Modesto, Calif., filed a class action lawsuit against Williams and Live Nation on behalf of the audience members who attended a Williams show at Oakland's Oracle Arena earlier this month. The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Williams went bonkers 10 minutes into his set, taking off all of his clothes and then challenging people to fight (sounds watchable to me). The gracious Herline is seeking class-action certification in an effort to get ticket money back for all audience members.

It's been a bad week for Justin Bieber. First, he was booed by a bunch of football fans for his halftime performance at the Grey Cup on Sunday, and now he has been hit with a $9.2 million lawsuit brought against him by Stacey Wilson Betts. Betts claims she lost her hearing "by a sound blast that exceeded safe decibel levels" at a Bieber concert two years ago. Two years is a long time to wait to file a lawsuit. Even fishier? She's representing herself. Bieber and his lawyers asked for the case to be dismissed, stating that Betts has a "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted," which is legalese for "girlfriend is crazy."

And, finally, we're going to save the most beautiful and touching for last: Hulk Hogan and Bubba the Love Sponge have settled out of court regarding Hulk's lawsuit against Bubba over a sex tape scandal. Hogan sued his former friend and Bubba's ex-wife Heather Clem for taping him in sexual acts with Heather without his knowledge and consent. The terms of the settlement are confidential.

With Barack Obama back in the White House and Abraham Lincoln in movie theatres, we thought it was time to immerse ourselves in Chicago — a city with historic ties to both presidents. We visited Lincoln Park, Bucktown and Wicker Park to give you this best friend's guide to the north side of the city

METRO NEWS
life@metronews.ca

Dishing deep on Chicago

Bucktown and Wicker Park

Located west of Lincoln Park, both neighbourhoods have seen a resurgence in recent years as established residents and young families mix with students and hipsters. Before you start exploring, grab lunch at Big Star (1531 North Damen Ave., bigstarchicago.com), a whiskey and taco eatery just past the Damen L transit station. Across the street from Big Star is The Violet Hour (1520 North Damen Ave., theviolethour.com). The lounge has a nearly hidden entrance and speak-easy feel. A house rule helps to achieve this — cellphones are left at the door! End your day by grabbing dinner at The Bristol (2152 North Damen Ave., thebristolchicago.com), an award-winning Bucktown restaurant. GQ named the eatery one of the 10 best new restaurants in America, and with its extensive wine list and seasonal-based creations, it's easily worthy of the title.

GQ named The Bristol one of the 10 best new restaurants in the U.S., so it's worth a visit if you find yourself in Bucktown. SUBMITTED

Lincoln Park

Before leaving Hotel Lincoln, grab a coffee from Elaine's Coffee Call. Located off the lobby, the small café is named after a former hotel telephone operator, who at night would call up former hotel mainstay and famed playwright David Mamet to see if he wanted an evening drink. The walls of Elaine's are covered with multiple layers of dog-eared wallpaper made even more interesting with coffee beans rubbed onto them with a brick. It makes the place feel well-loved, well-used and timeless.

Across the street from the hotel is Lincoln Park, a more than 1,200-acre retreat from the city nestled on the edge of Lake Michigan. Locals stroll and jog through the more than 25 kilometres of trails in this urban get away. Near the park centre is Lincoln Park Zoo (lpzoo.org), a free facility featuring a menagerie of creatures, from sea lions to land lions. The animals are like an extended family for locals, who can stroll through at any time and watch as the babies — including two recently born gorillas — grow up.

Do some gorilla watching at the Lincoln Park Zoo. ISTOCK

The Hotel Lincoln: Does it remind you of Moonrise Kingdom? SUBMITTED

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Stepping into the Hotel Lincoln is like walking onto the set of a Wes Anderson movie. The Midwest meets New England with golden yellows, foresty greens and a sense of quaint nostalgia reminiscent of the director's Moonrise Kingdom.

A number of the rooms feature curtains that open like the flaps of a tent, and patterned carpeting guides you through the hallways and suites. While it underwent extensive renovations before being opened by hotel operator Joie de Vivre early in 2012, the 12-storey building still retains its historic edge. The 184-room Lincoln has the feel of a boutique hotel with whimsical touches — like an eclectic wall of pictures and paintings leading from the lobby to the second floor, and a reception desk clad in drawer fronts. On the rooftop, an all-season bar offers sweeping views of Lake Michigan, North Avenue Beach and downtown Chicago. Off the lobby is Perennial Virant (perennialchicago.com), offering a seasonal menu and featuring pickled and canned ingredients purchased from local growers. (1816 North Clark St. jdvhotels.com.)

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Pretty and pleasing: Welcome to Puerto Rico

Sun, sand and surf. Try your hand at kitesurfing, kick back on the beach or check out some of San Juan's historic sites

AURÉLIE RESCH
life@metronews.ca

The Castillo San Felipe del Morro, built in the 16th century. AURÉLIE RESCH

"Left. Right. Left... Left! Left!" My instructor's voice is lost as the powerful wind takes me off the water and up in the sky. Kiteboarding is an exhilarating sport I am discovering in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Carried away, I feel the power of the wind blowing in the kite ... and pulling intensely on my arms. Anxious to avoid a collision with the plane taking off in a distance and the few sunbathing people close by, I manoeuvre the control bar to sink my kite.

Frances, my instructor, reaches for me in powerful stokes. Our faces are beaming. "Isn't it something?" she asks. I choke as a wave crashes on my smile. "I already lost two legs to it" she adds, referring casually to the prosthesis below her knee — the outcome of a surgery turned bad — that she lost in the water twice while kiteboarding.

Frances is a passionate pro kitesurfer. Nothing will stop her from doing it to its extreme or from teaching it to beginners like me.

"It's great to feel the power and the freedom," she adds as we head back to the beach. Still feeling the wind strongly pulling me to the shore, I nod vigorously. What a fantastic introduction to Puerto Rico.

If you go...

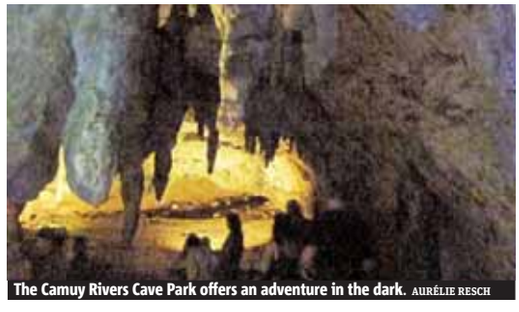
- **Where to stay.** Conrad Condado Plaza, Villa Montana Beach Resort
- **Where to eat.** Casa Lola (San Juan), Laurel (in the Museum of Arts of Puerto Rico, San Juan), Eclipse at villa Montana Beach Resort (Isabel, Puerto Rico)
- **Kitesurfing.** 15 Knots Kiteboarding School

Next move: A visit to Old San Juan. Traffic in San Juan is quite an experience, as are the one-way signs. They punctuate your driving. If you are in good shape and feel ready for it, better get on your feet and walk.

La Plaza de Armas is filled with food stands and congested with school buses, vocal drivers and running children. The square seems to be the lively roundabout in the heart of the city. The display of the buildings around the plaza distracts me for a second as it reminds me of a location from the movie Assassins. The location from that famous scene in which Antonio Banderas hides in an abandoned hotel and waits for Sylvester Stallone to get out of the bank, here a theatre, to kill him as he crosses the square.

My fertile imagination is fed with a tour of the Castillo San Felipe del Morro. Built in the 16th century, this citadel is rich in history. As I wander between thick stone in darkness, I imagine the rumours of fire guns and the screams of the guards outside as they defend the fort against invaders. I am struck by the heat and claustrophobic atmosphere of the dark corridors and I envision how hard it must have been for the soldiers to work under such conditions.

I'm not sure that the outstanding view of the ocean from the fort helped them forget about their mission and condition. No wonder some soldiers defending the lower outside towers disappeared. They likely swam away to better auspices. Nevertheless, the Castillo san Felipe del Morro is an impressive monument, a United Nations World Heritage site, and great place to visit



The Camuy Rivers Cave Park offers an adventure in the dark. AURÉLIE RESCH

with children or if you have the soul of an adventurer. The wind and the sea are calling me. I am ready for another quest. But before I reach the shore, I enjoy a nice stroll in small streets paved with indigo cobblestones. I stop to admire the colonial architecture of buildings and the squares garnished with beautiful statues. I venture in churches and shops for other tastes of the city. Charming Old San Juan demands to enjoy history and culture and to stop my watch for a bit.

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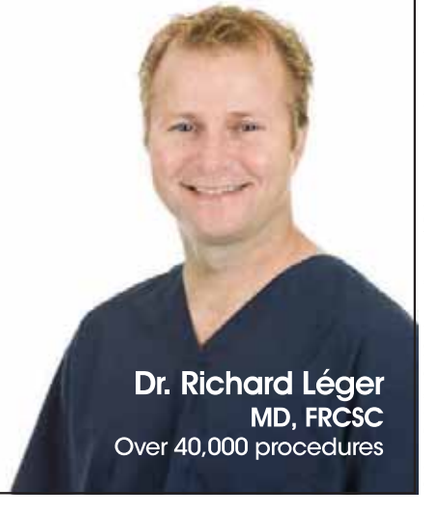

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Eat your way around the Rock

Foodie boom. Oil money and the fascination with celebrity chefs has put N.L. on the map as a tasty destination

New Year's Eve at Raymonds Restaurant in St. John's, N.L., will feature a luxurious 12-course tasting menu of seafood and wild game crafted by celebrated chef Jeremy Charles.

Each dish is based on a walk-in-the-woods theme and will showcase flavours from throughout the island, paired with wines from around the world.

The price?

A bell-ringing $325 per person, including the wine, tax and tip.

A more typical dinner for two at Raymonds — think Cornish hen with foie gras jus or pan roasted cod with Jerusalem artichoke puree — will top $300 with an appetizer and dessert, depending on which wine you choose from a 42-page list. Bottles range from about $40 to more than $2,000.

It's still a surprise to many people from out of town that fine dining of this calibre not only exists but thrives on the Rock. And while Raymonds is the jewel in this city's culinary crown, it's in fine company with a growing list of restaurants that increasingly delights globe-trotting food lovers.

The offshore oil boom has brought new visitors, executives and wealth to a province famous for its kitchen parties and culture of hospitality.

"Europe, Scandinavia, Japan. People are coming up from all over," said Charles, a soft-spoken and unassuming wizard in chef's whites.

Raymonds, named for his grandfather and the father of restaurant manager and sommelier Jeremy Bonia, was chosen Canada's best new restaurant last year by Air Canada's enRoute inflight magazine.

"I think we take a fairly simple approach with ingredients," Charles said. "We try to forage and source all local Newfoundland ingredients and, if not, Canadian."

Those basic elements include the freshest seafood, moose, rabbit, duck and lamb — grazed in summer on salt grass islands in the North Atlantic — that he infuses with French, Italian or whatever modern twists inspire him.

Jeremy Charles, owner and executive chef of Raymonds, gets busy in the kitchen. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charles refined many of those techniques during the decade he spent away, cooking for the Molson and Bronfman families at a remote fly fishing camp in Quebec, and working as a private chef in Chicago and Los Angeles.

"Not everyone's expecting to see such food, I guess, in St. John's. But it's great to be a part of this whole food movement and I think we really have come a long way in the past few years," he said.

"A lot of people are pushing themselves to put out wonderful products and we're so proud of what we have here. We're so excited to share what we have with the rest of Canada and the world."

St. John's-based food writer and critic Karl Wells said Raymonds is worth every dollar for those who can afford it, and it seems there are many who can. Reservations in high season are recommended weeks in advance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Watch Canada roll by

New era. Travellers are choosing the train more often as a holiday option

According to Via Rail, more Canadians are choosing the train to see the country roll by in its full romantic splendour. NEWS CANADA

More and more Canadians are choosing Canada again as a holiday travel destination and they are seeing it roll by in its full romantic splendour on the train.

In fact, a new era in train travel has emerged as Via Rail's ridership numbers continue to increase on certain routes while higher fuel prices, environmental concerns and chronic road congestion continue to rise. With this in mind, here are the five most popular Canadian rail trips chosen by travellers, according to Mylène Bélanger, senior adviser, media relations for Via Rail.

1 Prince Rupert, B.C., to Jasper, Alta. — "It's easily the best-kept scenic secret in train travel," Bélanger said, describing Via Rail's unique rail adventure across the wondrous Canadian Rockies and the coastal range in north-central British Columbia. The 1,160-kilometre, two-day journey winds past jagged peaks and glacial streams to ocean vistas as it runs between Jasper and Prince Rupert.

2 Journey on the train "The Canadian" — Toronto to Vancouver — On Via Rail's The Canadian, passengers get to discover the true sense of the breadth and diversity our country has to offer. This journey begins in Toronto and after four days, more than 4,400 kilometres and five provinces, reaches Vancouver on the Pacific Coast.

3 Churchill to Winnipeg — The 1,700-kilometre, two-day journey from Winnipeg to the subarctic region of northern Manitoba gives passengers the chance to see the Northern Lights and the beautiful northern landscape. In addition to allowing travellers to familiarize themselves with the First Nations culture, Churchill hosts families of polar bears that can be witnessed between October and November during the annual polar bear trek.

4 Montreal to Halifax on "The Ocean" — The 1,346-kilometre overnight trip runs through two of Eastern Canada's most dynamic cities. Montreal and Halifax represent the different cultures and rich history that make up Canada. You begin your journey in Montreal, a culture immersed in European tradition, and end in Halifax, a busy port city marked by its renowned Maritime hospitality. In less than 24 hours, you are swept away by the romance of train travel and gorgeous scenery.

5 Montreal to Gaspe, Que. — The Montreal to Halifax train separates in the early morning to allow a portion of the train to continue on to Chaleur Bay to Gaspe. Passengers on this train wake up to a beautiful display of seaside scenery featuring charming small towns. The 1,041-kilometre journey makes a stop in Percé in the afternoon where you can take in the breathtaking views of Percé Rock and Bonaventure Island.

NEWS CANADA

Get off the ground smoothly at airports with these simple tips

The festive season is a great time for a getaway with the entire family to visit relatives. But going through airport security during the busiest travel days of the year can be stressful.

The Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) says that delays and stress can be avoided by following a few easy steps.

No matter how big (or small) your family is, follow these guidelines to get off the ground smoothly:

- Leave gifts unwrapped in case their contents need to be inspected. Make sure any toys that look like weapons are placed in checked baggage, not your carry-on.
- Grandma's jam, mom's toiletries, dad's shaving cream and other liquids, gels and aerosols in your carry-on must be in containers of 100 millilitres or less and need to be placed in a clear one-litre plastic bag.
- Baby food, formula, milk, water and juice are exempt from this policy when travelling with your child younger than the age of two.
- Medications are also exempt. They must be presented separately to the screening officer.
- Use the line designated for families and passengers with special needs where you can get extra assistance. These lines are available at most major Canadian airports.
- If you or your child has special needs, let the screening officer know and don't be afraid to ask for assistance.
- Strollers and car seats will need to be X-rayed. Hold your child as you walk through the metal detector.

For more tips on travelling with small children, visit catsa.gc.ca or the mobile site at m.catsa.gc.ca.

NEWS CANADA

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To wrap or not to wrap this shrimp, avocado and feta combo

Shrimp, Avocado and Feta Wrap

This recipe serves eight. Present it in a wrap or a bowl. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

ROSE REISMAN
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rosereisman.com

You can substitute baby cocktail shrimp if you don't have the larger ones. Also, be sure to seed the tomatoes first to avoid excess liquid.

Keeping some or all of the shrimp whole makes a lovely presentation. Corn kernels are a nice addition to the filling.

If you are serving these to guests, let them assemble the wraps themselves.

Ingredients

- 6 oz raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 cups chopped plum tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chopped avocado
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 tbsp chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup crumbled light feta cheese (about 1 1/2 oz)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tsp finely chopped jalapeño pepper (or 1 tsp hot chili sauce)
- pinch of salt and pepper
- 4 large whole lettuce leaves
- 4 large whole wheat flour tortillas

1. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with vegetable spray and set over medium-high heat. Add the shrimp and grill just until no longer pink, about 3 minutes, turning halfway through. Remove from the heat and let cool slightly. Dice the shrimp and place in a large mixing bowl.

2. Add the tomatoes, avocado, cilantro, red onion, feta, olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, jalapeño, salt and pepper.

3. Place 1 lettuce leaf on each of the 4 tortillas and divide the shrimp mixture evenly among the tortillas, spreading it to about 1/4 inch from the edges. Fold in the sides of the tortillas and roll up. Cut each in half and serve. ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Orange Cosmo Crush

Before the final leaves fall off the trees, celebrate autumn one last time with this fun adult drink that's perfect for parties.

- 15 ml (1/2 oz) Drambuie
- 30 ml (1 oz) orange-flavoured vodka
- Juiced 1/2 orange
- Ice

Half-fill a mixing tin with ice and add Drambuie, vodka and orange juice. Shake until tin is frosted and strain into a martini glass.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ DRAMBUIE LIQUEUR

Treat them to savoury and classic Two-Bite Tourtières

A recent Tenderflake survey revealed that one in five Canadians consider tourtière their favourite savoury pie.

Inspired by the classic French Canadian favourite, these mini versions are perfect for gatherings.

Save yourself time on the day of your event by baking these pies ahead of time and freezing them in an airtight container. Once needed, simply defrost, reheat for 5 to 10 minutes and serve.

This recipe serves nine. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 1 package (18) Tenderflake Frozen Mini Tart Shells
- 1/2 lb (250 g) lean ground pork
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 carrot, finely grated
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 3/4 tsp (3 ml) celery seed
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground pepper
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) allspice
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground cloves
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) apple cider
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) mashed potatoes

1. Defrost tart shells according to package directions. Place on baking sheet.

2. Preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

3. Crumble pork into a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook, breaking the meat into small pieces with a wooden spoon, until browned. Drain off any excess fat.

4. Add onion, carrot, garlic, salt, celery seed, pepper, allspice and cloves. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes. Stir in cider and potatoes; reduce heat and simmer, stirring occasionally for 5 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat; cool to room temperature.

5. Divide pork mixture evenly between tarts shells.

6. Bake on lowest rack, for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown.

NEWS CANADA/ TENDERFLAKE

Mexicali Scramble Patty Shells. Zesty Mexican flavours for brunch

Feed your friends and family this unexpected zesty meal, which combines classic breakfast ingredients like eggs and sausage with the delicious Mexican flavours of salsa and tortilla chips. The result is a memorable brunch dish that certainly won't last long once your family digs in.

1. Bake patty shells according to package directions.

2. Melt butter in pan over medium-low heat. Add eggs and stir until they just begin to scramble, 2-3 minutes. Add sausage and cook for another minute. Stir in salsa and cheese and remove from heat.

3. Divide egg mixture between 6 baked patty shells. Top with crushed tortilla chips and serve immediately. NEWS CANADA/ TENDERFLAKE

Ingredients

- 1 (300 g) Package Tenderflake Frozen Patty Shells
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter
- 6 eggs, beaten
- 3 dinner size sausages, cooked and finely chopped
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) chunky salsa
- 1/3 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) crushed tortilla chips

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ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Before you post that picture of yourself doing body shots during your Cancun spring break, I would like to offer you some friendly advice on how potential employers might interpret your online behaviour.

You need to make sure that you are projecting the best possible image to future employers, in case anyone who's thinking about hiring you takes a quick second to Google your name.

People will be assessing what you've posted to see if there are any photos, videos or all-caps-irrational-ranting that raises a red flag about your judgment, awareness or intelligence.

A few common sense tips can ensure that you come across as employable:

Lock it down
The first and most important commandment of personal social media management is understanding who you are sharing your personal information with.

If you choose to add your professional contacts to Facebook, you can either keep things PG or change your security settings to only allow certain posts to be visible to your professional network.

This involves a certain degree of common sense. Every industry is different in terms of their tolerance for your shenanigans via social media. For example, if you work at a creative start-up company, your boss's views on your mid-workday posts of cat memes will be different than if you work at a Bay Street law firm. Investigate how your peers or colleagues are using social media, and follow their lead.

Think before you tweet ... about how bad your job is
I've seen far too many catastrophes caused by careless tweets. We've all witnessed heat-of-the-moment tweets about someone's failing love life and epic drinking plans (please, spare us), but I especially urge caution when it comes to social posts about your job.

It only takes one tweet along the lines of, "This job is S— and everyone here is a B—" to get you fired.

Assume that anyone and everyone will see your LinkedIn and Twitter accounts, and act accordingly. ISTOCK

The same applies if you decide to resign. Take a moment to reflect on how rejoicing publicly about your departure from your current boss, job or co-workers could appear. Perhaps your boss is in fact an evil fascist, and maybe your co-workers do give new meaning to the word psycho, but griping about work is never a good idea.

Regardless of the situation, it can make you look like a whiner and/or jerk.

Be truthful and consistent
Now that your social profiles (especially LinkedIn) are out there for anyone and everyone to see, you need to ensure you are telling a truthful, consistent story about yourself.

If your LinkedIn profile doesn't match up to your resume, that will raise red flags and will quickly torpedo potential opportunities. Take the same care in putting together an online profile as you would your resumé.

Maintain your personality and use it to your professional advantage
While you might think I would advocate for being a passionless yuppie robot on your social media profiles, that's not the case. Having a life outside of work makes you an interesting, well-rounded person, so maintain your unique qualities and pursuits in full view (as long as your pursuits are of the legal variety).

Remember to take the time to post updates about news and trends related to your industry. This will work to your advantage by showcasing your knowledge and interest in your field to potential employers.

Overall, it's critical that you avoid sharing anything on social media that could give the impression that you lack judgment, are irresponsible or should potentially be thrown in an asylum. Everyone lets their hair down once in a while; just have the good sense not to post the evidence on Instagram.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND NEW GRADUATES, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Social savvy

Ditch the cheesy Twitter handle

- I cannot tell you how many times I've seen resumés and email signature blocks that feature outrageously inappropriate email addresses, blog URLs or Twitter handles. You should be showcasing the best possible image to potential employers and @lovemonkey1990 is sending all the wrong messages.
- Sticking to your name is safest, but if you choose to use a nickname, make it something that wouldn't make your grandma blush.

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Student voice

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At the end of my five years at Simon Fraser University, I received a bachelor in business administration and honours in marketing and management information systems. It was very exciting, and the certificate is proudly displayed in my parents' den. But that is not definitive of my time at SFU. Instead, the out-of-classroom elements, including three co-ops, case competitions both local and abroad, an academic exchange at Tsinghua University in Beijing and a community development internship in Brazil, have defined my past five years. It is those elements of my university experience that have made me more competitive in the business world and allowed me to secure a role with Procter & Gamble one year prior to my graduation.

What I'm doing now
After I signed with P&G in November 2011, I graduated from SFU in April 2012 and travelled to Southeast Asia with my friends, followed by a two-month volunteer internship via SFU AIESEC, a student-run exchange group, in the south of Brazil. I am now working at P&G Canada in Toronto as an assistant brand manager.

My advice for employers, schools and career centres
For business students attending school on the west coast who are looking for careers in eastern Canada, it will be more of a challenge, as not all prospective companies actively recruit on the west coast. However, that allows students who are more engaged in the job-hunting process to step outside of the typical recruit process and actively seek for informational interviews/referrals from their networks such as alumni, career centres, and past co-op employers. I encourage employers, career centres, and schools alike to bridge the recruitment gap and ensure that the west coast is represented when the Ontario-based companies go through their annual recruits. Schools with strong alumni networks, co-op programs and formal recruits with job postings/deadlines will really help prospective grads focus their energies on companies which are actively recruiting.

My advice for students
When I reflect upon my past five years, co-ops and case competitions have undoubtedly honed my career-oriented acumen and skills. However, my most memorable experiences would be my exchanges. From my exchanges in China and Brazil, I have emerged as more of a global citizen, with a better understanding of myself and where I want to be. I made friends with people from across the globe, I learned a new language, a new culture and I made an impact with those who I volunteered with.

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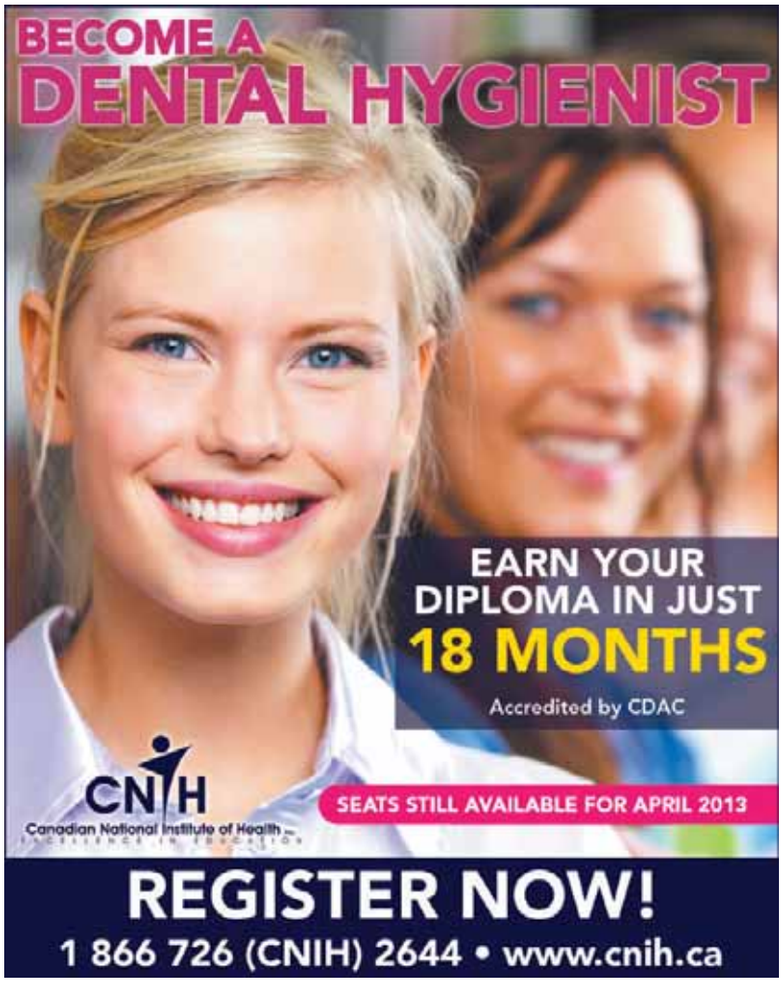

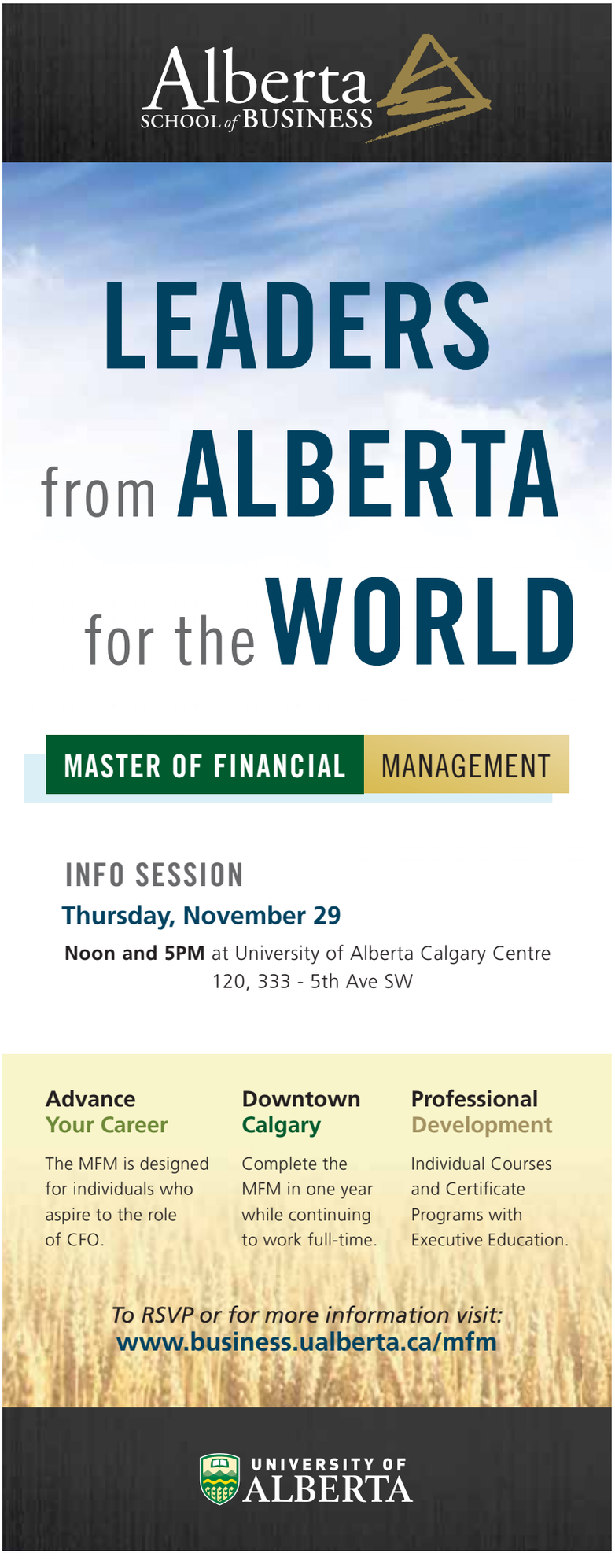

Calgary Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn looks down as the play ends during the Grey Cup on Sunday against the Toronto Argonauts. Glenn expects to be back with the Stampeders next year and believes he still has what it takes to be a starting QB in the CFL. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Glenn believes he's still No. 1 QB material

Stampeders season wrap. Glenn expected back with the team next season, a move Drew Tate said he would welcome

Kevin Glenn would like nothing more than to have another shot at winning a Grey Cup.

Whether that's with the Calgary Stampeders or not remains to be seen, but the 12-year Canadian Football League veteran believes that he still has what it takes to be a starting quarterback in the CFL.

"I would be lying if I didn't say that I think that I'm a starting quarterback in this league," Glenn said. "I think I am. If you're a quarterback and you don't think that, then something's wrong."

Just two days after the Stampeders lost 35-22 to the host Toronto Argonauts in the 100th Grey Cup, Glenn spoke to the media at McMahon Stadium for the final time this season.

"It's been tough, just going back and trying to figure out where it went wrong and how come we're not celebrating as Grey Cup champs right now," Glenn said. "You've got to give Toronto credit and they were better than us on that day. We couldn't get into a rhythm. When we did put drives together, we came out with three points instead of seven."

With Drew Tate out of the lineup with a fractured bone in his right arm, Glenn guided the Stamps to a 34-29 road win over the defending Grey Cup champion B.C. Lions in the West final on Nov. 18.

"If Kevin wasn't here, you never know how the season would have went," said receiver Marquay McDaniel, who was also Glenn's teammate in Hamilton. "It's good to have that veteran guy who's been playing for a long time with a lot of experience. You definitely need it because you never know what could happen."

After throwing three touchdown passes against the Lions, Glenn couldn't duplicate that feat on the CFL's biggest stage against the Argos.

"I don't think that takes anything away from the season that we had and us getting to that point," said Glenn, who completed 14 of 27 passes for 222 yards, no touchdowns and one interception against the Argos. "We've just got to come back stronger, tougher and fight for it again next year."

Calgary head coach and general manager John Hufnagel is counting on Glenn to be back in the fold next year.

"Right now, he's under contract to come back and I expect Kevin to be at training camp," Hufnagel said. "A lot of things can happen, but I have no preconceived thoughts of him being anywhere else except a Stampeder."

Tate also has no qualms about Glenn returning next season.

"I hope he is back," said Tate, who missed most of the regular season after dislocating his left shoulder during the second game of the season in Toronto against the Argos. "I hope everyone on this team is back.

"It would make us pretty tough, because we've got a lot of good guys on this team and a lot of them are really young too. I don't think the white horse is too worried about anything really."

After having missed so much time to injury, Tate said he realizes that he'll have to prove himself all over again starting at training camp.

"We just had the exit meeting and Huf made it pretty clear on how it works," Tate said. "Win or lose the Grey Cup, we're still starting at the bottom of the mound on June 1.

"It doesn't matter what we did this year, it's over. It's in the past."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"At this point, I leave as a Calgary Stampeder and hopefully come back as a Calgary Stampeder. If not, then that's just the way the business rolls."

Stampeders quarterback Kevin Glenn, who is still under contract with the Stamps and expecting to return to Calgary next season

CFL

Toronto celebrates Argos cup win

Chad Owens danced onstage with his young son while Jalil Carter rode shirtless in the back of a pickup truck sipping from a Tim Hortons cup and Adriano Belli planted a smooch on Toronto's embattled mayor.

The Argonauts and their fans celebrated a rare treat on Tuesday — a championship party in their own backyard.

"All the ups, the downs, the stretches we went through, when we lost five out of six games, just knowing that we stuck together, persevered through and never lost sight of our dream and our goal and we made it through," said Owens, the wide receiver who won the league's most outstanding player award this season.

"It's so special. The 100th Grey Cup. In our city. Never going to forget that."

The Argonauts paraded the venerable trophy through downtown Toronto, arriving at Nathan Phillips Square to a festive lunchtime crowd of several thousand to celebrate Sunday's 35-22 victory over the Calgary Stampeders.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Alouettes let go defence coach Reinebold

The Montreal Alouettes are parting ways with first-year defensive co-ordinator Jeff Reinebold.

The club announced Tuesday night that Reinebold will not return for the 2013 season.

Despite the Alouettes finishing first in the East Division, the team struggled on defence and gave up 30 or more points in its first four games, and conceded more than 40 points twice after that.

Reinebold's rookie year on the job wasn't made any easier by a secondary that was ravaged by injuries. Moton Hopkins didn't play at all, while fellow defensive tackles J.P. Bekasiak and Ventrel Jenkins went down during the season.

Defensive end John Bowman also missed a large part of the season.

Montreal allowed 489 points for an average of 27.2 points per game under Reinebold.

The Alouettes were eliminated in the East semifinal by eventual Grey Cup champion Toronto Argonauts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rockets fuelled by Harden in rout of Raptors

NBA. Houston guard will return to Oklahoma City Wednesday for first time since being traded

Toronto Raptor DeMar DeRozan drives past Marcus Morris of the Houston Rockets in Houston on Tuesday. BOB LEVEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Houston Rockets took care of Toronto, then looked ahead to a long, emotional Wednesday.

James Harden scored 24 points and matched a career high with 12 assists to lead Houston over the Raptors 117-101 on Tuesday night. Patrick Patterson added 22 points for the Rockets, who have won four in a row. Omer Asik had 13 points and 18 rebounds, his seventh double-double of the season.

Now comes the hard part.

The Rockets planned to fly to Minneapolis immediately after the game to attend Wednesday's memorial service for Sasha McHale, the 23-year-old daughter of coach Kevin McHale. Sasha McHale died on Saturday from complications of lupus.

The team will then fly from Minneapolis to Oklahoma City to face the Thunder on Wednesday night.

"I think we're strong enough to get through it," Harden said. "We've got to be there for Coach. He's going through a lot right now. Our biggest thing is just supporting him, and making sure we comfort him."

It was going to be an emotional day for Harden anyway. The reigning Sixth Man of the Year will return to Oklahoma City for the first time since he was traded to Houston on Oct. 27.

"It'll be good to see some faces, some old teammates and coaches," Harden said. "I look forward to every game I play. It's another game."

Andrea Bargnani scored 21 points and Terrence Ross added a career-high 19 for the Raptors, who have lost five straight. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vonn skis on in Alberta

Lindsey Vonn speeds through a training run on Tuesday in Lake Louise, Alta. Vonn returns to the resort dubbed "Lake Lindsey" determined to add to her wins, and also to compete against men in the future. With 11 wins, no woman has won more World Cup races at Lake Louise than the American star. The world governing body of skiing, FIS, denied her request to race in the men's World Cup downhill and super-G on Saturday and Sunday.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hockey

Top Blue Jackets prospect out for season with shoulder injury

Ryan Murray is expected to miss the rest of the season with a shoulder injury, delivering a blow to Canada's world junior team.

The 19-year-old Everett Silvertips captain suffered a torn labrum in his left shoulder after taking a hit while playing Victoria on Nov. 16. On Tuesday, it was revealed the injury will require surgery that will sideline Murray for six months.

The defenceman was the second overall pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets earlier this year and was expected to challenge for a spot on the NHL team as soon as the lockout ended.

He had two goals and 17 points in 23 games for the Silvertips this season.

Murray represented Canada at last year's world junior championship and would likely have been a key member of the team that competes in Ufa, Russia, next month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.J. Penn, left, punches Nick Diaz during a mixed martial arts welterweight bout in Las Vegas on Oct. 29, 2011. Former champ Penn says he will be in top shape for his Dec. 8 UFC fight with Rory MacDonald. ISAAC BREKKEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Penn driven by desire to be called one of the greatest

UFC. Hawaiian is coming out of retirement to fight highly rated Rory MacDonald from Kelowna, B.C.

Former champion B.J. "The Prodigy" Penn says he will be in top shape for his Dec. 8 UFC fight with Rory "Ares" MacDonald, pointing to the desire to add to his legacy and trash-talk from his young Canadian opponent as motivation.

Penn, a former lightweight and welterweight title-holder, has not always maximized his training and it has cost him in fights.

The 33-year-old Hawaiian retired in the cage in October 2011 after a lopsided loss to Nick Diaz. But after mulling over his future, he told UFC boss Dana White that he wanted to return, with the highly rated MacDonald (13-1) as his choice of welterweight opponent.

Penn (16-8-2) said he told White via a text exchange several months ago he was tired of being ignored in talk of the cream of the fighting crop.

"I told Dana I watch all these interviews and all these people talking and no one says my name when they're talking about the greatest fighters anymore. And I really don't like that, it really bothers me," Penn told a media conference call in advance of his showdown with MacDonald in Seattle.

"And I know it's my fault. I know I'm the reason why people don't talk about me when they talk about GSP (Georges St-Pierre) or Anderson Silva. My name was always in the mix. It's never in the mix any more.

"And that was actually a big part of my motivation to come back and be strong and do a good fight here on Dec. 8."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ready for a fight

- Penn has had plenty of time to prepare.
- Originally slated for September at Toronto, the bout was delayed when MacDonald suffered a cut in training that needed 38 stitches.

Bonds, Clemens, Sosa set to appear on Hall ballots

Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa are set to show up on the Hall of Fame ballot for the first time, and fans will soon find out whether drug allegations block the former stars from reaching baseball's shrine.

The ballot will be announced Wednesday.

Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling are certain to be among the other first-time eligibles. Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Tim Raines are the top holdover candidates.

Members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America (BBWAA) will vote through next month with results announced Jan. 9. Players need to be listed on 75 per cent of ballots to gain induction.

The upcoming election is certain to fuel the most polarizing Hall debate since career hits leader Pete Rose's betting problems put him on baseball's permanently ineligible list.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa each posted some of the biggest numbers in the game's history, but were all tainted by accusations that they used performance-enhancing drugs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	10	3	.769	—
Brooklyn	9	4	.692	1
New York	9	4	.692	1
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	2½
Atlanta	8	4	.667	1½
Philadelphia	9	6	.600	2
Boston	8	6	.571	2½
Charlotte	7	6	.538	3
Chicago	6	7	.462	4
Indiana	6	8	.429	4½
Orlando	5	8	.385	5
Detroit	4	11	.267	7
Toronto	**3**	**12**	**.200**	**8**
Cleveland	3	12	.200	8
Washington	0	12	.000	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	10	2	.833	—
San Antonio	12	3	.800	½
Oklahoma City	11	4	.733	½
Golden State	8	6	.571	3
L.A. Clippers	8	6	.571	3
Utah	8	7	.533	3½
Denver	8	7	.533	3½
L.A. Lakers	7	7	.500	4
Houston	7	7	.500	4
Phoenix	7	8	.467	4½
Dallas	7	8	.467	4½
Minnesota	6	7	.462	4½
Portland	6	8	.429	5
New Orleans	4	9	.308	6½
Sacramento	4	10	.286	7

Tuesday's results
Phoenix 91 Cleveland 78
Philadelphia 100 Dallas 98
Houston 117 **Toronto 101**
Minnesota 97 Sacramento 89
Indiana at L.A. Lakers
Monday's games — All Times Eastern
San Antonio 118 Washington 92
Brooklyn 96 New York 89 OT
Detroit 108 Portland 101
Oklahoma City 114 Charlotte 69
Memphis 84 Cleveland 78
Milwaukee 93 Chicago 92
Utah 105 Denver 103
New Orleans 105 L.A. Clippers 98
Wednesday's games
San Antonio at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Portland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New York at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

NFL — WEEK 13

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	407	244
Miami	5	6	0	.455	211	226
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	221	290
Buffalo	4	7	0	.364	243	319

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	1	0	.909	327	211
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	230	273
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	238	335
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	188	308

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	2	0	.818	283	219
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	.545	231	210
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	282	247
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	209	248

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	3	0	.727	318	221
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	245	237
Oakland	3	8	0	.273	218	356
Kansas City	1	10	0	.091	161	301

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	305	226
Washington	5	6	0	.455	295	285
Dallas	5	6	0	.455	242	262
Philadelphia	3	8	0	.273	184	282

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	10	1	0	.909	294	216
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	310	254
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	308	304
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	214	265

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	277	175
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	273	245
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	248	249
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	267	280

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	2	1	.773	276	155
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	219	185
St. Louis	4	6	1	.409	205	254
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	180	227

Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
Arizona at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m.
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, December 3
N.Y. Giants at Washington, 8:30 p.m.

AHL

Tuesday's result
Texas 5 Rockford 4
Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern
St. John's at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Hershey at Norfolk, 7:15 p.m.
Rockford at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Thursday's games
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Friday's games
Springfield at Manchester, 7 p.m.
Bridgeport at Hershey, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Adirondack, 7 p.m.
St. John's at Albany, 7 p.m.
Texas at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Worcester at Portland, 7 p.m.
Connecticut at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
Syracuse at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
San Antonio at Lake Erie, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Hamilton at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

NCAA

AP TOP 25

Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Pac-12 Championship
No. 8 Stanford vs. No. 17 UCLA, 8 p.m.
MAC Championship — At Detroit
No. 18 Kent St. vs. No. 19 Northern Ill., 7 p.m.
Saturday's games
No. 7 Kansas St. vs. No. 23 Texas, 8 p.m.
No. 12 Oklahoma at Texas Christian, 12 p.m.
No. 16 Oregon St. vs. Nicholls St., 2:30 p.m.
No. 24 Oklahoma St. at Baylor, 12 p.m.
No. 25 Boise St. at Nevada, 3:30 p.m.
SEC Championship — At Atlanta
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 3 Georgia, 4 p.m.
ACC Championship — At Charlotte, N.C.
No. 13 Florida St. vs. Georgia Tech, 8 p.m.
Big 10 Championship — At Indianapolis
No. 14 Nebraska vs. Wisconsin, 8:15 p.m.

The 2013 Fiat 500 Turbo

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Engine

The base 500 hatch and Cabrio operate with a 101-horsepower 1.4-litre four-cylinder MultiAir engine and standard five-speed manual transmission. For 2013, the engine has been tweaked to produce 6.4 l/100 km in the city and 4.9 on the highway using premium fuel.

The 500's engine

2013 Fiat 500 Turbo

- **Type.** Two-door, front-wheel-drive, sub-compact hatchback
- **Engines (hp);.** 1.4-litre DOHC14, turbocharged (135)
- **Transmission.** Five speed manual
- **Base price (incl.destination).** $22,600

Design

The Turbo arrives with plenty of add-ons, including a distinctive nose and rear end (similar to the Abarth's), unique bodyside trim and alloy wheels. Along with a sport-tuned exhaust, the transmission, suspension and braking system have been beefed up to better handle the mushy handling traits.

Transmission

Keep in mind that the Turbo copies the Abarth's manual-transmission-only requirement, so if you're averse to giving your left foot and right arm a workout while driving, the decision has already been made for you. For the record, the Turbo's fuel consumption numbers are 7.1 l/100 km city and 5.7 highway.

Review. 500 is perfect for small car fans on a budget seeking quality

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

Chrysler-Fiat's Italian-bred sub-compact finally appears to be gaining headway with small-car shoppers.

That should become even more in evidence with the recent arrival of the Turbo that rounds out a four-model 500 lineup, which already includes a base 500, 500c Cabrio convertible and performance-focused 500 Abarth. Making its presence felt on the North American automotive stage has been challenging for the two-door 500, especially when compared to other more iconic and established makes, including its Mini Cooper nemesis.

The frugal 500 family still has some kilometres to go before reaching icon status in North America. In most cases, its youthful buyers have only minimal knowledge of the Fiat marque.

However, the fiat's quality has been proven over time and bridging the gap between base and Abarth is the new 500 Turbo. As the name implies, its 1.4-litre engine is also turbocharged, but has been detuned to 135 horsepower and 150 pound-feet of torque. That's 25 ponies less than the Abarth, but the $22,600 Turbo model also costs $3,000 less, which is fair.

Also note that the Turbo and the Cabrio are within $1,000 of each other, allowing you to choose between top-down summer fun or extra performance for roughly the same money. Hmm, decisions, decisions. The Turbo also comes with sporty-style bucket seats and fancier trim, while climate control, voice-activated navigation system, leather-covered and heated front seats and a Beats by Dr. Dre audio package are optional.

For small-car fans with champagne tastes on a beer budget, the 500 Turbo should manage to deliver some extra kick and give Fiat fans a more stylish way to get from A to B.

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Buying your first car is one of life's most important purchases, so make sure you make the right choice. HANDOUT

That magical moment. HANDOUT

Think you're ready to buy your first vehicle? Choose with care

Price out your options. Avoid a hurried purchase and weigh up whether a rental or permanent vehicle is your best option heading into the future

EMMA GODMERE
Drive@metronews.ca

Just picture it: It's been a long time coming, but you're in your first car with nothing in front of you but the open road.

Purchasing your first car is likely one of the biggest purchases you're ever going to make, second only to buying your first home.

But before you start to shop around for your dream car, there are several things to consider. Should you go for new or used? And is it smarter to buy or lease? Different options are going to work for different people, advises Silvana Aceto, spokesperson for CAA South Central Ontario.

"Look at how often you're going to be using this vehicle and how far you're going to be driving," she says. If you're planning on driving long distances regularly, you may want to consider buying to sidestep mileage restrictions that come with leasing.

On the other hand, leasing means lower monthly payments and the opportunity to trade in for a new model every three or four years.

Aceto recommends making the effort to price out your options. Many car companies have online tools that will help illustrate the cost differences between leasing and buying their vehicles.

Resources such as the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada and Consumer Reports also offer more information about makes and models as you figure out which kind of car will best fit your lifestyle, while the Canadian Black Book is an ideal guide for anyone considering used cars.

There are key pros and cons involved in purchasing a used vehicle. "You have to consider that you could be buying someone else's problems," warns Aceto.

New cars, however, will likely require fewer repairs in the first few years of ownership and are also supported by manufacturer's warranties.

But buying used might be easier on your wallet. "Typically, you pay less to insure a used vehicle as opposed to a brand new vehicle," she says. Ultimately, when it comes to shopping for insurance and finding your ideal car, extensive research is your best friend.

"There is plenty of homework, research and legwork involved, but it will pay off in the end," says Aceto. "Take your time because this is an expensive purchase, and you don't want it to be an impulse buy."

Start sharing

Life questions. This is the third in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Question.** Do you remember your first car or are you planning on buying your first one? Maybe you have some tips.
- **Share.** Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

Quoted

"There is plenty of homework, research and legwork involved, but it will pay off in the end. Take your time because this is an expensive purchase and you don't want it to be an impulse buy."

Silvana Aceto, spokesperson for CAA South Central Ontario
On whether to buy or lease a car.

Smart steps

- **Talk to family and friends.** Chances are, they're car owners too and will be able to recommend models and dealers they've used in the past.
- **Check your credit history.** New car owners will likely require loans to support their purchase. Doing your own credit check before you visit dealerships ensures your credit score won't dip from running too many inquiries on your credit report.
- **Take a test drive.** Once you have your choices narrowed down to a few cars, take them out for a spin. "Make sure that you take the vehicle out for 30 to 40 minutes on routes that you would normally drive," Aceto suggests.

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Del Allow	- $1,000
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Check with an expert before buying and towing your trailer . HANDOUT

Driving Force.
Having the right hitch and not overloading can prevent towing accidents

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Towing is a common activity, but a huge number of people aren't doing it correctly. If you're not, you're risking your safety and that of other road users, and putting unnecessary wear and tear on your vehicle.

"Most people towing a trailer have no idea of how well it can tow when it's set up properly," says hitch expert Andy Thomson, president of Can-Am RV Centre in London, Ont.

"The hitches they're using might be rated for the trailer they're towing, but if they're not strong enough to transfer the weight to the front wheels of the vehicle, you don't get a stable towing experience.

"You get blown around by crosswinds, and you might not have a lot of control if you have to make an emergency manoeuvre to avoid something.

"Putting weight on the front tires makes the vehicle stable because you're not overloading the rear suspension, and the trailer and vehicle act as one."

The trailer's weight is a factor, but people tend to overemphasize it, Thomson says.

"There are things that are a lot more important, such as the aerodynamic drag of the car and trailer. A trailer may only weigh 4,000 pounds, but if it's built like a shoebox, it's going to be very hard to tow.

"You have to look at the balance of the trailer, the type of suspension it has, if it has a long or short overhang, and if it's got the correct hitch weight, which will be 10 to 15 per cent of the weight of the trailer."

Many trucks and SUVs come with "tall" tires (a larger sidewall) because they give a smoother ride, but they can exhibit considerable lateral movement, a condition known as "squirminess." Switching to a lower-profile tire on the vehicle, and sometimes on the trailer, can make towing easier.

Asking a professional is always best, Thomson says, no matter what size your trailer is.

"Almost all trailer accidents resulting in serious injury or deaths have been utility trailers," he says.

"Someone buying a $25,000 RV has a big investment and he makes sure. But if someone buys a utility trailer, overloads it, doesn't have an adequate hitch and it comes off, that's what causes the problem."

Tips

- **Load warning.** Overloading your vehicle with cargo or a trailer can prematurely wear the brakes, suspension and transmission.
- **The lights are on.** Always ensure the trailer's lights and signals are working properly so drivers behind know when you're stopping or turning.

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get plenty of advice over the next 24 hours, some of it good and some of it bad. How do you know which is which? By listening not to other people but to your own inner voice. It knows all the answers.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The more you feel the need to prove yourself, the more care you must take when dealing with people whose opinions may be very different to your own. Say the wrong thing and it could impact you financially.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Even if you are one of those rare Geminis who tries to avoid the limelight, all your instincts are telling you to put yourself out there and get noticed. Do something out of the ordinary, something that makes a lasting impression.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There seems to be a lot of resentment in your mind but there is no point being angry with people for what they have said because they can't un-say it. It's up to you to put it behind you. Move on.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You will say something that is less than positive about a friend today but there is no need to feel guilty about it because it's the truth. A few choice words are just what they need to set them straight.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You don't have to be ruthless but the Lunar Eclipse warns you do have to protect your interests. Someone who envies your success will try to undermine you today. You know who they are. Deal with them severely.

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Tell the truth as you see it today, even if you know it is likely to offend someone you are fond of. It is important that they can see things from an alternative point of view. Without it they'll make a huge mistake.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
The planets warn that anyone who approaches you with a money-making idea over the next 24 hours is not to be trusted. The more enticing it sounds the more likely it is you will lose your investment. Give it a miss.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It's not easy to turn the other cheek when someone hurts you but you would be wise to today. If you get drawn into a dispute it will escalate quicker than you expected, so give revenge a miss.

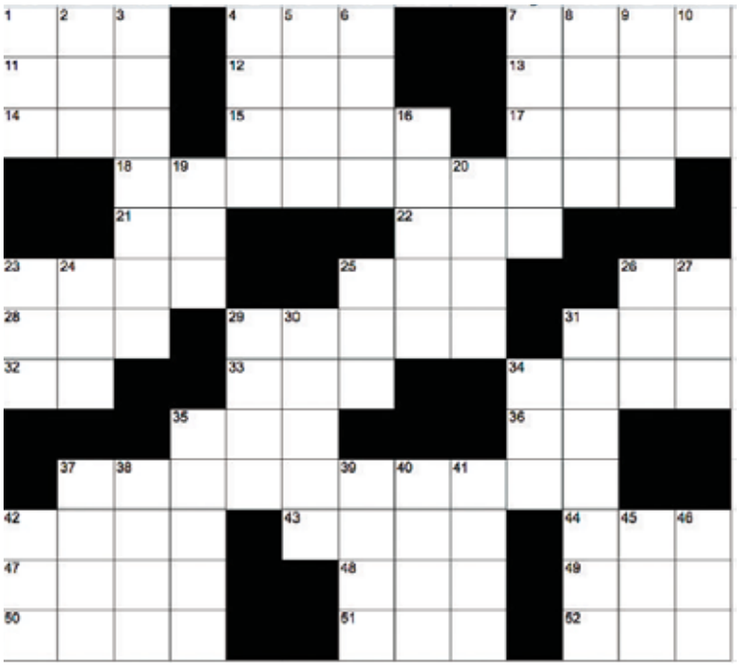
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Avoid getting involved in anything that others might see as deceptive or crooked. Facts often mean less than impressions, so don't let people get the impression that you are up to no good.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You are on the right side and nothing anyone can say is going to change your mind. That's fine but be aware that too rigid an outlook limits true understanding. Being right isn't everything.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If you don't feel up to going out with your friends, just let them know you need some time to yourself. The Lunar Eclipse makes this the kind of day when you want to hunker down and stay inside your own four walls. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

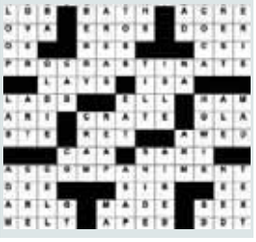
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Angry
4. Fishing need
7. Charmed actress McGowan
11. Spring month (abbr.)
12. Desperate Housewives star Longoria
13. Role for Hal Holbrook in Evening Shade
14. Average grade
15. Flying (prefix)
17. Transmit
18. Filling out an envelope
21. Just Shoot —
22. Preserve fruit
23. Baldwin of 30 Rock
25. The Joy Luck Club author
26. Post script (abbr.)
28. According to
29. Dole out
31. Ocean
32. Baronet
33. In tune with the latest fashion
34. Ollie's partner
35. Found on the farm
36. Night time medical drama
37. Clean our teeth with this
42. Abuse
43. Without
44. Exclamation of surprise
47. Sword
48. Author of "The Raven"
49. Mate for woman
50. Barracks food hall
51. Saturday late night skit show (abbr.)
52. Pig's abode

Down
1. Apple computer
2. Mimic
3. Romanticist
4. Peruse
5. — and above
6. Truth or —
7. Saran
8. Baking need
9. "I Never — for My Father"
10. Halt
16. Fashion designer: —- de la Renta
19. Christmas mo.
20. Perfectly coherent
23. NYPD Blue notice (abbr.)
24. Allow
25. Knock lightly
26. Small green veggie
27. The Streets of — Francisco
29. Take a stab at
30. —- and lows
31. Brooks
34. Lay down
35. Holmes on —-
37. Pre-record
38. Minerals
39. Gladys Knight & the —
40. Soon
41. Stitch up
42. Alter a skirt or dress
45. The Cat in the —
46. "— Given Sunday"
54. Neighbour of ND

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

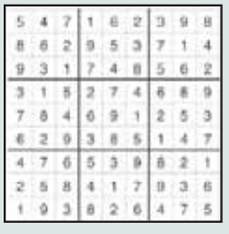
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5		7	6				9	
			1	8		2		
2					4			
8							5	7
1		5				6		4
3	9							2
			8					6
		4		2	1			
	5				3	7		1

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -10° MIN: -10°	MAX: -13° MIN: -14°	MAX: -13 MIN: -15°

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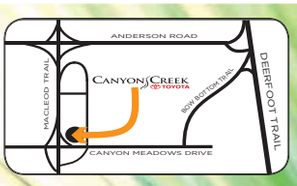

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189091T • 65,698 • TOURING • LEATHER

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2005 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
068291T • 60,000 KM • AUTO • A/C • CRUISE

CLEAROUT! $14,075

2009 ACURA TL
801506P • FULL LOADED • A MUST SEE!

$23,283 OR $180/BW

2003 TOYOTA COROLLA
754802T • 119,000 KM • SPORT • SUNROOF

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2011 CHEVY CRUZE ECO
219807T • 17,000 KM • A/C • WINTER & SUMMER TIRES

$18,283 OR $125/BW

2004 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD
028919T • 115,000 KM • AUTO • POWER GROUP

CHEAP 4X4! $11,333

2011 KIA RONDO EX V6
344175T • 20,252 • LEATHER • 3RD ROW SEATING

$20,393 OR $139/BW

2012 HYUNDAI SONATA
345160P • 39,710 KM • XM RADIO

$19,378 OR $133/BW

2010 NISSAN SENTRA
691518P • 80,648 KM • AUTO • A/C • CRUISE

$11,363 OR $92/BW

2009 TOYOTA VENZA
001322P • 63,000 KM • V6 •AWD

$26,383 OR $210/BW

2010 TOYOTA TACOMA
689653P • 56,500 KM • ACCESS CAB • 4X4

$25,977 OR $206/BW

2009 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER
126061P • 54,480 KM • AWD • V6 • LEATHER • MOOROOF

$35,393 OR $273/BW

2008 TOYOTA YARIS LE
186556P • 75,700 KM • 5-DOOR • AUTO • KEYLESS ENTRY

$12,393 OR $112/BW

2007 HONDA CIVIC
011253T • 79,000 KM • DX • 5-SPEED

$10,243 OR $95/BW

2006 TOYOTA SOLARA
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